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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you plan to visit the Taste of the Marianas festival this year?

Let your voice be heard! www.saipantribune.com

NSIDE



New Voters

Voter excitement, always up before a presidential election, is pushing registration through the roof so far this year.

NATION...Page 15



Death Toll

Myanmar's official media said Tuesday that 10,000 people were killed by a powerful cyclone in just one town.

ASIA...Page 16



Diary Entries

Saddam Hussein feared catching AIDS or other diseases during his U.S.-supervised captivity.

WORLD...Page 17

In-flight video on invasive species urged. PAGE 5

Petition to apply OGA to Legislature revived. PAGE 2

FOR RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

Power rate more than doubles



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ **NMC ACTION PLAN**

Northern Marianas College President Dr. Carmen Fernandez delivers the NMC compliance action plan to the members of the House Committee on Health, Education & Welfare, and Committee on Ways and Means during a courtesy visit at the House chamber on Capital Hill yesterday. Also in photo are NMC Board of Regents members Agnes M. McPhetres, Maria (Malua) T. Peter and Elaine Hocog-Orilla.

Govt hires a new lobbyist for \$25K

Firm hired to help CNMI get \$15 million in federal assistance

By AGNES E. DONATO

The Fitial administration has hired a new firm to lobby for the Commonwealth's request for a \$15-million federal aid

\$15 million to cope with the expected impact of federally mandated minimum wage hikes.

Fleishman-Hillard, was hired last month

The local government says it needs the for \$25,000. The amount will cover work for a period of six months.

The Commonwealth was previously represented by the law firm of Oldaker, The administration said the new firm, Biden & Belair at a cost of \$15,000 per See GOVT on Page 4

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN rianne pangelinan@saipantribune.com

Joey P. San Nicholas stepped down as acting chair of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents last week.

This was disclosed yesterday by members of the Board of Regents who met with the House Committee of Health, Education, and Wellness Committee.

According to San Nicholas, his resignation had something to do with "family and medical issues.'

Regent Agnes McPhetres said the See SAN NICHOLAS on Page 4

esidential customers are in for a shock when they get their power bills next month, after the Commonwealth **Utilities** Corp. revised its power rates yesterday, increasing them

RELATED

Muna: Lifting

of power

rates' roll-

PAGE 6

back would

stabilize CUC.

to more than double the previous rates.

The action comes soon after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Saturday signed into

law the measure that suspends the power rates rollback.

Effective Saturday, the rate for residen-See POWER on Page 4

Labor announces a new transfer policy

Deputy Labor Secretary Cinta M. Kaipat announced a revised policy under which the department will

handle cases brought by foreign national workers that are pending in other iurisdictions.

"When worker files a case in Supe-

Kaipat rior Court or federal court," she said, "the Labor Department will deal with

transfer and renewal rights in the See LABOR on Page 4

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Conditions apply

INTRODUCING ICONNECT'S

Local

2 arrested for allegedly stealing cow

Police arrested Tuesday night in Kagman two men who allegedly stole a cow near its owner's house last month.

Francisco Aldan, 25, and Joey Aldan, 27, were arrested for theft

initially imposed for the two's temporary release. A bail hearing was set yesterday afternoon in the Superior Court.

Detective Nicholas C. Leon Guerrero stated in his report that a complaint that a cow owned by June Somorang and described as a one-year-old brown male calf with tiger stripes on its sides had been stolen.

The calf was reportedly last

A \$1,000 cash bail each was on April 5, 2008, police received tied in an open grassy area near Somorang's house in Kagman.

> On April 8, a detective interviewed a witness who claimed to have seen a truck pulling a cow that passed by his residence

in Kagman III.

The witness said the blue Toyota pickup truck was traveling slowly and that he identified the driver as Fransciso Aldan and the passenger as Joey

The witness said a male juvenile was sitting behind the truck, pulling the rope that was tied to the cow's nostrils.

When a detective showed the witness photos of the Aldans, he identified them as those in the truck with a cow.

The witness also disclosed to police that the truck was no longer blue, but painted red after Somorang's cow went missing. (Ferdie dela Torre)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands **Department of Public Health Division of Public Health**



ANNOUNCEMEN

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is pleased to announce the expansion of services to the island of Tinian beginning May 9, 2008. WIC staff will travel to Tinian at least twice per month to deliver services after this date. Applications may be picked up at the Tinian Health Center starting May 2, 2008. Please contact the Saipan WIC Clinic at 236-8750/8758 to schedule an appointment.

The CNMI WIC program has had a successful beginning, growing to approximately 2400 participants since the program began in August 2007. The WIC program is continuing to build capacity. CNMI WIC is currently building a new clinic on Navy Hill, Saipan and plans to expand to the island of Rota later this year. In the interim, USDA regulations (7 CFR Part 246) require that the CNMI WIC Program prioritize its current waitlist.

Effective immediately, the CNMI WIC Program will enroll eligible applicants in the following categories:

- Pregnant women
- Infants (0-12months)
- Breastfeeding women (up to 1 year postpartum)

Postpartum, non-breastfeeding women and children ages 1-5 may be placed on the waiting list if requested. However, the Program does not have the capacity to make immediate appointments for children or postpartum women at this time, including those children who are reapplying because their current certification period has expired. As appointment slots become available, those placed on the waiting list will be contacted.

We appreciate your patience as we work to serve the community and the participants who are need of WIC services the most. If you are currently on the waitlist for children ages 1-5, please be advised that the Program will contact you as slots become available; however, we will not be able to predict when that would be.

As a reminder to current participants, please be advised that current enrollment does not guarantee continued enrollment in the program. Current participants must go through another certification. Appointments will be made according to the priority listings.

For more information about the CNMI WIC Program, please visit our website at www.cnmiwic.org.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider.

Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez Secretary, Department of Public Health

Josephine K. Tudela Director, CNMI WIC Program

Petition to apply OGA to Legislature revived

REPORTER

A lawmaker submitted yesterday a popular initiative petition to apply the Open Government Act to the Legislature.

Rep. Tina Sablan, who started the petition as a private citizen

last year, filed the initiative request with the Attorney General's Office. Some 2,500 signatures have been gathered for the petition.

Sablan hopes the initiative can be placed on the ballot for the expected election later this year. A federal bill, which Presi-

dent Bush is expected to sign in a few days, calls for a November 2008 election for the Northern Marianas' first delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

It is not clear whether initiatives will be allowed on the ballot for the federally mandated election, but Attorney General Matthew T. Gregory told Sablan yesterday that "it's a possibility."

The 2,500 signatures accompanying the petition are the same as those collected last year. They were not enough to meet the required 20 percent of certified voters in 2007. Then, 20 percent was equivalent to about 3,000.

But because of the low turnout last election, the numerical equivalent of the 20-percent requirement was reduced to 2,400. Voters who fail to participate in an election are automatically removed from the voters list.

Although the petition now has more than the required signatures, the signature drive will continue. "Just to be on the safe side," Sablan said. She noted that some of the previously collected signatures may be invalid by now.

Certified voters who have not signed the petition will have the opportunity to do so at Sablan's "State of the Legislature" public forum in the Multi-Purpose Center, at 6pm today.

In addition to the initiative,



Sablan plans to introduce a bill with the same intent.

PRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD Kelang	ETD Fuzhou	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung
MELL SINGAPORE	008E	4/26 SAT	4/24 THU	4/14 MON	5/1 THU	4/15 TUE	4/19 SAT	5/2 FRI	4/28 MON	4/27 SUN	4/22 TUE	4/13 SUN	4/28 MON	5/2 FRI	5/3 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	016E	5/3 SAT	5/1 THU	4/21 MON	5/8 THU	4/22 TUE	4/26 SAT	5/9 FRI	5/5 MON	5/4 SUN	4/29 TUE	4/20 SUN	5/5 MON	5/9 FRI	5/10 SAT
MELL SENOKO	004E	5/10 SAT	5/8 THU	4/28 MON	5/15 THU	4/29 TUE	5/3 SAT	5/16 FRI	5/12 MON	5/11 SUN	5/6 TUE	4/27 SUN	5/12 MON	5/16 FRI	5/17 SAT
MELL SINGAPORE	009E	5/17 SAT	5/15 THU	5/5 MON	5/22 THU	5/6 TUE	5/10 SAT	5/23 FRI	5/19 MON	5/18 SUN	5/13 TUE	5/4 SUN	5/19 MON	5/23 FRI	5/24 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	017E	5/24 SAT	5/22 THU	5/12 MON	5/29 THU	5/13 TUE	5/17 SAT	5/30 FRI	5/26 MON	5/25 SUN	5/20 TUE	5/11 SUN	5/26 MON	5/30 FRI	5/31 SAT
MELL SENOKO	005E	5/31 SAT	5/29 THU	5/19 MON	6/5 THU	5/20 TUE	5/24 SAT	6/6 FRI	6/2 MON	6/1 SUN	5/27 TUE	5/18 SUN	6/2 MON	6/6 FRI	6/7 SAT

Inbound	Voyage	ETA	ETD	ETA	ETA	ETA	ETA	ETA							
from Asia	No.	Gu	iam	Saipn	Yap	Koror	GenSan	Davao	Cebu	Hongkong	Kaoshiung	Busan	Kobe	Manila	Singapore
MELL SINGAPORE	008E	5/9 FRI	5/10 SAT	5/10 SAT	5/13 TUE	5/14 WED	5/16 FRI	5/17 SAT	5/20 TUE	5/23 FRI	5/24 SAT	5/27 TUE	5/27 TUE	5/25 SUN	5/28 WED
STADT HAMBURG	016E	5/16 FRI	5/17 SAT	5/17 SAT	SKIP	5/21 WED	5/23 FRI	5/24 SAT	5/27 TUE	5/30 FRI	5/31 SAT	6/3 TUE	6/3 TUE	6/1 SUN	6/4 WED
MELL SENOKO	004E	5/23 FRI	5/24 SAT	5/24 SAT	5/27 TUE	5/28 WED	5/30 FRI	5/31 SAT	6/3 TUE	6/6 FRI	6/7 SAT	6/10 TUE	6/10 TUE	6/8 SUN	6/11 WED
MELL SINGAPORE	009E	5/30 FRI	5/31 SAT	5/31 SAT	SKIP	6/4 WED	6/6 FRI	6/7 SAT	6/10 TUE	6/13 FRI	6/14 SAT	6/17 TUE	6/17 TUE	6/15 SUN	6/18 WED
STADT HAMBURG	017E	6/6 FRI	6/7 SAT	6/7 SAT	6/10 TUE	6/11 WED	6/13 FRI	6/14 SAT	6/17 TUE	6/20 FRI	6/21 SAT	6/24 TUE	6/24 TUE	6/22 SUN	6/25 WED
MELL SENOKO	005E	6/13 FRI	6/14 SAT	6/14 SAT	SKIP	6/18 WED	6/20 FRI	6/21 SAT	6/24 TUE	6/27 FRI	6/28 SAT	7/1 TUE	7/1 TUE	6/29 SUN	7/2 WED

NOTE: MELL SENOKO 003E REQUIRES THE PROPELLER CONTROL SYSTEM OIL DISTRIBUTION RINGS TO BE REPLACED WITH A NEW PARTS AT HONGKONG. THEN PROCEED DIRECTLY TO GENSAN FROM KAOSHIUNG SKIPS GUAM/SAIPAN/YAP/KOROR

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Fitial: Green energy plan drawing many proposals

agnes_donato@saipantribune.com REPORTER

More than a dozen companies have expressed interest in providing renewable energy to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said the firms are interested in submitting proposals across a wide range of green technologies, including wind, solar, biodiesel,

ocean waves, and geothermal. He did not name any specific firms that have expressed interest in submitting proposals.

The companies have until next Friday, May 16, to submit their proposals.

Fitial said he is optimistic the request for proposals for a renewable energy grid will not meet the same fate as the privatization bid, which was cancelled amid complaints about fairness.

"We believe this RFP can withstand any protest and look forward to having the various proposals evaluated carefully and professionally," Fitial said.

In a statement accompanying the request for proposals, CUC said it hopes to enter into longterm performance contracts with firms that will be fully respon-

sible for building and running the utility's renewable power generation projects.

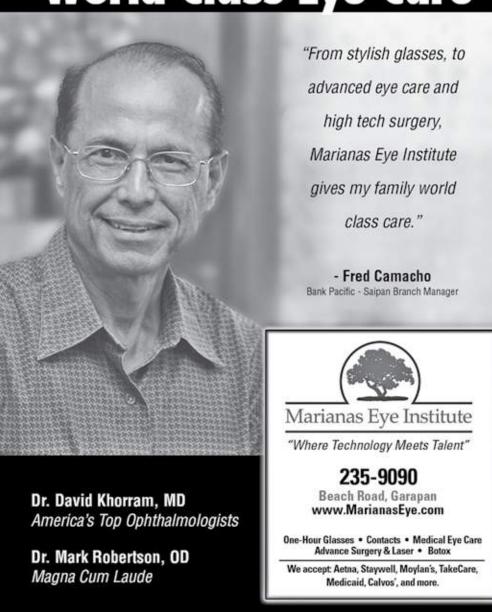
"This [RFP] is the first in what the CUC envisions to be an ongoing process of growth and development of a comprehensive portfolio of increased energy efficiency in the CNMI islands, to reduce the islands' dependence on fossil fuel/s," CUC said.

lar photovoltaic, wind energy, or tidal energy—or any combination of these technologies is technically and financially feasible. But firms are also urged to consider other technologies such as fuel cells, solar thermal power, geothermal power and methane gas-fired generation from landfills or a biomass facility.

CUC may select one contractor.

The RFP was issued in accordance to Public Law 15-23. Under the commonwealth's green energy law, green energy must comprise 10 percent of the power CUC generates by the end of 2008. The renewable energy portfolio standard will double every two years until it reaches 80 percent by 2014.

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SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2008

REVISED, EFFECTIVE MAY 3, 2008

			RATES PER KILOWATT-HOUR (kWh)						
CUSTOMER CLASSIFICATIONS	MONTHLY CUSTOMER CHARGES (FIXED)		ELECTRIC NON-FUEL RATES (FIXED)		ELECTRIC FUEL RATES (FLUCTUATES)		TOTAL RATES PER kWh		
RESIDENTIAL 1. First 500 kWh (1 To 500) 2. Second 500 kWh (501 To 1,000) 3. Next 1,000 kWh (1,001 To 2,000) 4. All kWh After 2,000 (Over 2,000)	\$	5.60	\$	0.016 0.066 0.086 0.127	\$	0.357 0.357 0.357 0.357	\$	0.373 0.423 0.443 0.484	
COMMERCIAL (All kWh Billed)	\$	7.67	\$	0.086	\$	0.357	\$	0.443	
GOVERNMENT (All kWh Billed)	\$	7.67	\$	0.091	\$	0.357	\$	0.448	
NON-CONFORMING LOAD (All kWh Billed)	\$	56.00	\$	0.222	\$	0.357	\$	0.579	

TODY OF ELECTRIC FILEL DATES

OCTOBER 07 (ALL OTHERS) \$ 0.228

HISTORY OF ELECTRIC FUEL	LKAI	ES:		
JANUARY 07	\$	0.196	NOVEMBER 07	\$ 0.258
FEBRUARY 07	\$	0.188	DECEMBER 07	\$ 0.258
MARCH 07	\$	0.188	JANUARY 08	\$ 0.258
APRIL 07	\$	0.191	FEBRUARY 08	\$ 0.253
MAY 07	\$	0.222	MARCH 08 (RES. ONLY)	\$ 0.176
JUNE 07	\$	0.221	MARCH 08 (ALL OTHERS)	\$ 0.288
JULY 07	\$	0.223	APRIL 08 (RES. ONLY)	\$ 0.176
AUGUST 07	\$	0.223	APRIL 08 (ALL OTHERS)	\$ 0.327
SEPTEMBER 07	\$	0.228	MAY 08 (RES. ONLY, UP TO 5/2/08)	\$ 0.176
OCTOBER 07 (RES. ONLY)	\$	0.176		

Pursuant to Public Law 16-2, the above Residential Electric Charges and Rates became effective May 3, 2008.



Congratulations to the Chili Cook-Off Contest winners from Godfather's Bar, Jonny's Bar & Grill and Billy Bones

1st Place: Lito Mutuc • 2nd Place: John D. Guerrero • 3rd Place: Justine Agustines

Thank you to all customers, contestants, judges, PTI, Marpac, Triple J, KZMI, Stress Free, Western Union, Budget Car Rental and Aquarius Tower for making this party a success.

Laolao Bay to submit new qualifying certificate application

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSISTANT EDITOR

Laolao Bay Golf Resort will resubmit its qualifying certificate application in comits original application last week, according to the company's president Sun Don

He said Laolao Bay decid-

ing days after withdrawing ed to resubmit a new application for qualifying certificate to reflect the higher prices for materials it would use for its \$68.8-million Golftel project, which broke ground last

"International prices of materials are increasing so we are [re]calculating all the cost of our construction and then we will submit a new

and revised application for during the groundbreaking qualifying certificate to the Commonwealth Development Authority. We plan to do it in the next two weeks,"

ceremony.

The \$68.8-million Golftel project of the Kumho Asianaowned resort in Kagman will involve two phases.

Students urged to participate in 'Ties That Bind' essay contest

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-**BROWN**

elinan@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate, in collaboration with the NMI Humanities Council, is encouraging all high school students from grades 9th to 12th to participate in this year's "The Ties that Bind" essay contest.

The essay contest is timed to coincide with the 110th anniversary of Philippine Independence Day on June 12, 2008.

Essays must address the theme "The Ties That Bind: Exploring the Historic Connections of the United States, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Re-



Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities Council executive director Paz C. Younis, CNMI Philippine consul general Wilfredo DL. Maximo, former Humanities Council chair Carmen C. Gaskins, and Outstanding Humanities teacher Jaime R. Vergara talk to the media during a press conference for the launching of "The Ties that Bind: Exploring the Historic Connections of the United States, CNMI and Republic of the Philippines" essay contest at the Philippine Consulate General at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe yesterday.

public of the Philippines" and must be submitted by participating schools to the Humanities Council on or before 4pm on May 30, 2008.

The awards for the contest is a round-trip ticket for two to Manila, Philippines for first place; \$300 for second place and \$200 for second place.

The contest promises to provide an excellent opportunity to explore and reaffirm the depths of the historic ties that have long existed between the CNMI, the United States, and the Philippines.

Interested participants are urged to procure the official rules for the contest from participating school on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Jhung said in an interview

POWER

From Page 1

tial customers for the first 500 kilowatt-hour is 37.3 cents per kWh—the highest ever electric rate in the CNMI.

For those with consumptions ranging from 501 to 1,000 kWh, the rate is now 42.3 cents; for those that range from 1,000 to 2,000 kWh, it is 44.3 cents; and for those with over 2,000 kWh, it is 48.4 cents.

The residential rates more than doubled because CUC is now charging 35.7 cents for the fluctuating electric fuel rates.

For businesses, the May rate is not good news either. CUC is now charging commercial customers 44.3 cents per kWh.

The rate for the government is 44.8 cents per kWh and for

non-conforming load, it is 57.9 cents per kWh.

Last April, businesses paid the fixed 8.6 cents for electric non-fuel rate and 32.7 cents for electric fuel rate, for a total of 41.3 cents for all kWh billed.

Since March 2008 up to May 2008, residential customers have been paying the lowest rate at 17.6 cents per kWh pursuant to Public Law 15-94.

Residential customers experienced the lowest fuel rates in October 2007 when P.L. 15-94 took effect, putting a cap on the power rates at 17.6 cents per kWh.

With the administration's signing of emergency regulations on Nov. 9, 2007, the electric fuel rate for residential customers jumped from 17.6 cents per kWh to 25.8 cents per kWh until January 2008.

GOVT

From Page 1

month for at least one year. The local government had hired the law firm to block minimum wage hikes and immigration federalization. Both measures have been passed by the U.S. Congress.

Press secretary Charles P. Reves Jr. said in a statement that Fleishman-Hillard is expected to help the local government secure at least \$15 million in congressional appropriations "to help a devastated CNMI economy cope with further economic losses once all CNMI garment factories shut down and other CNMI businesses close down

from the impact of federal minimum wage hikes."

He said the firm had helped the governor in drafting the letters he sent to U.S. senators and representatives recently. The letters asked for the lawmakers' support for money to offset the impact of the wage increases.

In a telephone interview, Reyes said the administration was "compelled" to hire the lobbyist because congressional members and staffers know too little, if at all, about the Northern Marianas' location, history, and needs

"A paid lobbyist would not have been necessary if we had someone representing us in D.C. whose positions on issues are aligned with the administration's," Reyes said.

His remark echoed the governor's State of the Commonwealth Address, where Fitial blamed Washington representative Pete A. Tenorio for allegedly failing to communicate the CNMI's concerns with government leaders in the nation's capital.

The Saipan Tribune tried to get comments from Tenorio but he has not called back as of press time.

While the administration has opposed any increase to the CN-MI's minimum wage, Tenorio has taken the position that the wage level should be capped at \$4.05 per hour. That rate is the wage expected after the second 50-cent increase is implemented

on May 25, 2008.

Tenorio has also called for resources to help the CNMI and U.S. Department of Labor determine whether the economy could sustain further hikes, and to cushion the impact of higher wages on local businesses.

Fitial and American Samoa Rep. Eni Faleomavaega have asked Congress to grant a \$30million financial assistance to be shared by the CNMI and American Samoa. They proposed that the funding provision be included in the emergency supplemental appropriation bill now being drafted in both houses of Congress.

Fitial and Faleomavaega said the money would be spent on "investments in critical ar-

eas that have the potential to bring multiplying economic benefits."

They identified the areas where the money could be spent: transportation projects, measures to bring down the cost of fuel and stabilize shipping, job retraining, emergency financial relief to affected employers, efficiency studies for local governments, and funding for essential public services.

In the CNMI, temporary support could also be given to the visitor industry to help bring new money into the islands.

"Inclusion of this language in the Emergency Supplemental this year and every year thereafter will give American

Samoa and the CNMI an opportunity to provide an essential bridge to sustainability that our communities need in the coming years until such time as Congress reviews the economic impact of further increases in minimum wage," said Fitial and Faleomavaega.

The Fitial administration had initially lobbied Congress to pass a law suspending the second minimum wage hike, supposed to take effect on May 25 this year. It is now widely believed that Congress won't be able to take this action in time, hence the backup plan to get the \$15 million funding to cushion the wage hike's impact.

The CNMI's current minimum wage is \$3.55 per hour.

SAN NICHOLAS

From Page 1

board's loss of San Nicholas is a very sad one.

"He was very good board

member, a very intelligent person, and a level-headed person," McPhetres said.

The board has appointed Charles Cepeda as the board's new acting chair. Rita Inos, chairperson of the Board of Regents, has not been on island for almost a year but continues to hold the chair title.

McPhetres said an organizational meeting would be held in June, during which the board would "probably" nominate a

new chair then.

In February this year, Eloise A. Furey stepped down as member of the NMC Board of Regents.

She declined to give any reason for her sudden resignation after six years of being a member.

Press secretary Charles Reyes said that although the governor appoints Board of Regents members, the governor's acceptance of a member's resignation is not needed since NMC is an

independent and autonomous agency.

"This is just a courtesy since the NMC Board of Regents does not report to the governor or fall under his authority," Reyes said.

file a court case.'

Also, Kaipat explained, the department wants to act while

"We have cleaned up our back-

LABOR

From Page 1

same manner as we deal with any other worker. The fact of a pending case will not affect the worker's rights unless a court or a hearing officer issues an order allowing the worker to stay in the Commonwealth past the expiration of their status."

Under the revised policy, a worker who files a court case while their entry permit is current will be required to renew or transfer at the expiration of the current permit, as would any other worker. If the worker who has a pending case is successful in renewing or transferring, Kaipat explained, their employment will continue as would the employment of any other worker who transferred or renewed.

Their entry permit will carry a new expiration date, and they will have status as granted by the entry permit.

However, if the worker does not renew or transfer, and their current permit expires, they will be processed for repatriation as would any other worker. CNMI law provides that a foreign national worker who is required to exit the Commonwealth is permitted to remain for up to 30 days beyond the required exit date in order to pursue civil or criminal claims or to pursue a violation of NMI labor law. In order to stay longer than 30 days. the worker who has a claim in Superior Court or federal court will need an order from the court extending the departure date "as necessary to ensure due process

rights are protected." Cases pending with other

agencies, such as U.S. Labor, the EEOC, the NLRB, or any other outside agency that has jurisdiction within the Commonwealth to enforce federal law, will be handled in the same way as cases pending in the courts.

Kaipat said that any worker who presents to Labor Enforcement a court order or an agency order staying a departure date will automatically be permitted to stay in the Commonwealth for as long as the court order or agency order is in effect. The Labor Department will ask the court or agency to notify the department when the case is over so that the repatriation process can be re-started as necessary.

Kaipat said that after expiration of an entry permit, the worker's rights while remaining in the Commonwealth will be determined by the order of the court or agency. Any special conditions or requirements will need to be spelled out in the order.

In the transition process under the new policy, the Labor Department will adjudicate the transfer rights of all workers holding temporary work permits issued because of currently pending court or agency cases. This adjudication of transfer rights will have no effect on the court or agency case.

"Only the Department of Labor can grant transfer or renewal rights," Kaipat explained. "Our processes with respect to transfers are entirely separate from claims before courts with respect to discrimination, or breach of contract, or any criminal matters."

"There will be no effect on a court or agency from the way that the department carries out its

responsibilities as to transfers,' Kaipat said. In the event that a worker has claimed damages before the Labor Department and also before a court or agency, the department will adjudicate any transfer claims and dismiss the other claims, deferring to the court or agency for those matters.

"There will be no double-dipping," Kaipat said. "If a worker asserts damage claims before a court, we will defer to the court and dismiss any overlapping claims before the department."

"This is necessary in order to make the department's processes fair to all workers and to increase efficiency," Kaipat explained. "Processing transfers should be done the same way and in the same time frame for all workers. There should not be a tactical advantage with respect to transfer if a worker elects to

the evidence is fresh and the employer is still present and financially sound. Waiting until the end of a court proceeding might mean that an employer disappears in the interim, and that is an undesirable result. This change in policy will help the department stay current

on its labor cases. "The department has completed the hearings on almost all of its 2007 labor cases," Kaipat reported. log in labor cases and now we are finishing up the 2005, 2006, and 2007 agency cases which we expect to complete soon. We will be entirely current and operating only under the new labor law within a few weeks."

In-flight video on invasive species urged

Regional leaders have asked Continental Micronesia to show an in-flight video informing travelers what they can do to help stop the spread of invasive species to the islands.

The leaders of the Northern Marianas, Guam, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands stated their request in a letter prepared during the recently concluded 9th Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit in Palau.

The letter, addressed to Continental Micronesia chief executive officer Mark Erwin, stated that the video "would reflect the beauty of our natural environments and pass on the important message that the long-term sustainability of these ecosystems is highly dependent on our ability to stop the introduction of invasive species."

The video would also show how travelers can minimize the possibility of unwanted introduction of invasive species during their travels throughout Micronesia.

land environments, ecologies, and economic prosperity is invasive species," the leaders said. "In order to avoid the unwanted introduction of dan-

as the brown tree snake, to the fragile island ecosystems in our region, governments, corporate communities, tour-

gerous invasive species, such ists and citizens of our region must be aware of the potential threats and be diligent in our efforts to protect our borders." (Agnes E. Donato)

"One of the greatest common threat to each of our is-JAL considering more charters to Saipan carrier still has a long ways to go before resuming some of the

in October 2005. "...even if we hit this [profit projection] there is still some way for us to go in terms of restructuring our business," said Pearlman.

international flights it suspended

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from Haneda, along with the By MARK RABAGO

Authority.

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSISTANT EDITOR

While Japan Airlines canceled its regular air service to the Commonwealth in October 2005, the carrier has not totally abandoned the destination as witnessed by the three recently charter flights from Haneda, Japan.

The April 26, 29, and May 3 charter flights that left Japan are the first for the fiscal year and more are being considered, according to JAL public relations manager Stephen Pearlman.

"In FY2007, the year ending March 31, 2008, we operated a total of 19 roundtrip charter flights from Japan to Saipan. So far this year (FY2008), we have announced that we will operate three roundtrip flights to Saipan during the Japanese Golden Week holidays. Other flights to Saipan are being considered but nothing has been finalized yet," he said in a recemt email to the Saipan Tribune.

The three JAL charter flights

seven scheduled by Continental Airlines (three of which are for Rota), brought in 2,201 additional airlines seats to the Commonwealth during the April 25 to May 5 high-peak travel period for Japanese travelers, ac-

cording to the Marianas Visitors

In an earlier report, the JAL executive justified the cancellation of the carrier's regular service to the Commonwealth and said many international flights also got the axe because of the general underperformance of JAL's international business.

"[It was] purely business reasons. JAL's international business has not been profitable for a number of years," he said.

Pearlman went on to detail the extent of losses the carrier incurred the past several years— 30 billion ven in FY2004, 47.2 billion yen in FY2005, and 16.2 billion in FY2006.

He added that although JAL is forecasted to record a 7-billion yen profit for FY2007, the

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands **State Board of Education**

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



Invitation For Bid IFB 08-027

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, and installation of Computers and Accessories for William S. Reyes Elementary School. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-027" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than May 30, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-027, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1)-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A. **Commissioner of Education**

/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz **Acting P&S Officer**



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor - Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai Saipan, MP 96950



ADDENDUM NO. 1 April 28, 2008

702 CIP Project Managers for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota **DPW08-RFQ-019**

- 1. **General:** The following revisions, additions, corrections, and/or clarifications to the specifications and drawings shall apply to the work affected thereby. Careful note of this Addendum shall be taken by the bidder/contractor, and all trades affected shall be fully advised of the information contained herein. In the event of a conflict between drawings, specifications and this Addendum, the contents of this Addendum shall govern. All further conflicts in the work resulting from, or caused by, the contents of this Addendum must be brought to the attention of the Contracting Officer for resolution.
- 2. Sealed Proposal Due: Marked "DPW08-RFQ-019" Proposal Submission due on 10:00 a.m. local time April 30, 2008, is changed to read 10:00 a.m. local time May 14, 2008. For bidders located outside the CNMI sealed Proposal must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Services or the official government postal services of a foreign country no later than May 14, 2008, and must be received no later than May 23, 2008.

All other requirements of the Request for Qualification of the project package shall remain as stated.

Muna: Lifting of power rates' rollback would stabilize CUC

Newly-appointed Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio Muna said that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's lifting of the power rates rollback is a

positive development for the financially troubled agency.

Muna said the suspension of Public Law 15-94—the law that rolled back utility rates-will also allow for some stability in revenues and relief to

the central government in providing funding to CUC that it may need in other areas.

Muna

"This should allow the governor to dedicate those assets to other areas," said Muna during a news briefing on Monday, when he replaced Anthony Guerrero as the utility agency's chief.

law the omnibus bill that provides CUC cash for fuel. The measure, now Public Law 16-2, aims to help CUC reduce its expected shortfall of \$11.3 million by Sept. 30, 2008.

The measure suspends up to Dec. 31, 2008, the power rates

rollback, which reportedly caused CUC a monthly shortfall of \$ 1million in fuel costs alone.

addressing In CUC's financial shortfall, Muna said the agency obviously needs to get back to

the rate that was implemented prior to the rollback.

"It has to be sufficient," Muna stressed, adding that because the rollback rate was not sufficient, CUC couldn't pay for its operational costs.

The executive director said his job is to make sure that the opera-Fitial on Saturday signed into tional costs are at kept low, while

"It's going to be my job to ensure that whatever rate we do promulgate or ask for is sufficient, that the rate that we will ask for is going to be based on the least amount of costs with respect to the operational requirements or financial requirements of CUC," he said.

Muna said the \$17.6 cents per kilowatt-hour rate for residential area is not enough, considering the cost of fuel continues to be over a \$100 a barrel.

"We need to make sure that whenever we buy oil, we can pay for it accordingly," he said.

The executive director underscored the need for CUC to set up a system that will preclude the central government's continued injection of funds into the utility agency.

"CUC as a public corporation, as having a revenue-generating capability, should be able to pay for itself," Muna emphasized.

Man in cable theft gets 14-day sentence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a 14-day prison term on one of three persons accused of stealing telephone cables owned by the Pacific Telecommunications

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced Jesse Secharmidal Peredo to one year in prison, all suspended except for the first 14 days, with credit for the 14 days he had already served in jail.

The 21-year-old Peredo pleaded guilty to misdemeanor criminal mischief.

Following a plea agreement, Manglona placed the defendant on one-year probation and required him to pay a \$481 restitution with his co-defendants.

The judge directed the Peredo to also pay a \$100 fine and \$25 court assessment fee.

Peredo was ordered to write a letter of apology to PTI and Saipan Mayor's Office, through Mayor Juan T. Tudela and the general manager respectively.

Manglona said that Peredo shall perform 80 hours of community work service and shall not consume or possess alcoholic beverages during his probation.

The Attorney General's Office filed an information in February 2007 charging Peredo and co-defendant Erwin Evence with felony theft, conspiracy to commit theft, and criminal mischief.

A juvenile involved in the incident was charged separately.

In November 2007, the juvenile pleaded guilty to theft and was subsequently sentenced.

Peredo and counsel signed the first plea agreement with the government.

At the October 1, 2007 change of plea hearing for Peredo, Manglona rejected the plea agreement. She said that from her review of the file, this is basically a copper wire theft

Manglona found that the jail

was too lenient given the impact this kind of crime has on the community.

Furthermore, Manglona learned from the declaration of probable cause filed in the case that a juvenile was also involved in this crime.

The prosecutor (then assistant attorney general Anne-Marie Roy) argued that the case is not a "copper wire" case, preferring to characterize the matter as a "telephone cable" theft case.

> Three days after that change of plea hearing. Roy filed a motion to dismiss with respect to Peredo and Evence. Roy cited as reason that the government possessed insufficient evidence to prove its case at trial.



Manglona

The AGO later filed an amended motion to dismiss. The amended motion deletes the claim of "insufficient evidence" and simply states that "the Commonwealth believes it is in the interest of justice to disterm agreed to by the parties miss the case with prejudice."

Norita works to implement driver education law

Public Safety Commissioner Claudio K. Norita is working on the implementation of a law that will require all firsttime driver license applicants to undergo driver education at a DPS certified school.

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said yesterday that Norita and Bureau of Motor Vehicles director Juana Leon Guerrero collaborated with Driver Training Academy's Richard Puhalla to complete the driver education project that began in August 2006.

Public Law 15-25 or the Mandatory Driver Education Act of 2006 was enacted on May 5,

2008. The Act's rules and regulations have been submitted, approved, and adopted. The enforcement of the Act is slated to commence on June 2, 2008.

Ogumoro said that, when that occurs, all first-time driver license applicants will be required to complete 30 hours of classroom and six hours of laboratory instruction at a DPS certified school.

Similary, she said, the students will need to log 24 hours of additional behind-the-wheel practice accompanied by an adult who is licensed to drive in the CNMI.

The students' ability to parallel park will also be evaluated.

The age requirement for enrollment in a driver education course is 15 and a half years.

However, Ogumoro said, no student will be issued a driver's license prior to reaching his or her 16th birthday.

P.L. 15-25 also mandates that individuals wishing to obtain a license to drive a taxi must complete the course as well as anyone whom the court considers to be a repeat traffic and or DUI offender.

"Finally, those individuals who obtain a learner's permit prior to June 2, 2008, will be exempt from attending the classes," Ogumoro said. (Ferdie de la Torre)

IN CPA'S LAWSUIT VS EX-LEGAL COUNSEL

Wiseman denies motions to dismiss lawsuit, sanctions

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The Superior Court has denied former Commonwealth Ports Authority's legal counsel Douglas F. Cushnie's motion to dismiss CPA's lawsuit against him.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman also denied Cushnie's motion seeking sanctions against CPA for allegedly filing the complaint that falsely presented several allegations as facts.

Wiseman said that, as of this moment in the litigation, the language in CPA's complaint referencing the Commonwealth Rules of Professional Conduct "is superfluous and does not warrant dismissal of CPA's wellpleaded allegation of professional malpractice/negligence."

He said that as CPA has not specifically identified the particular Commonwealth Rules of Professional Conduct it may use as evidence of a standard of care and Cushnie's breach of it, "the court will refrain from ruling whether CPA will be allowed to present such evidence to the trier of fact."

On the sanctions issue, the judge said he cannot detect any bad faith or unseemly ulterior motive behind CPA's inclusion of the allegedly erroneous fact statements in its complaint.

"Therefore, the court will deny Cushnie's motion at this time, but will revisit the issue, should Cushnie wish to pursue it, but only once a fact finder has weighed the evidence in the case or once the need for a fact finder has been dispatched," Wiseman said.

In October 2007, CPA sued Cushnie for allegedly refusing to return \$265,144 that was allegedly overbilled to CPA.

CPA sued Cushnie for al-

் இவக்கள் இ

leged professional malpractice/ professional negligence, breach of fiduciary duty, and breach of contract.

CPA, through its counsel attornev Robert T. Torres, stated that during the period of June 1, 2003 through Sept. 30, 2006, CPA paid Cushnie a total of \$1.3 million.

Torres said Cushnie admits that when he compared his time records from June 1, 2003 through Sept. 30, 2006 to the billing statements he submitted to CPA during this period, CPA was overcharged \$265,144.76.

Torres cited that the defendant has contended he is not responsible for the overpayment because the false billings were submitted by his employee, who, according to him, overbilled CPA to cover undeposited collections of CPA retainer fees and collections from other clients.

He said Cushnie further contended that he is not responsible for the overpayment because the bank where he maintained his account improperly paid forged checks issued by his employee.

Cushnie moved to dismiss CPA's first claim for relief alleging professional malpractice/professional negligence. He specifically argued that CPA's reference to the Commonwealth Rules of Professional Conduct is impermissible as a basis for relief.

In a separate motion, Cushnie asked the court to impose sanctions on CPA. He alleged that in violation of the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure, CPA's complaint falsely presented several allegations as facts.

In denying the motion to dismiss, Wiseman said that CPA bases its complaint on a theory of professional malpractice/ negligence.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



NMHC ITB 08-008 PURCHASE OF SIX COMPUTERS

This Ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD Funds.

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors through its Chairman of the Board is soliciting competitive sealed bids from interested vendors for the purchase of five desktop personal computers and one (1) laptop for the Tinian Public Library. All six (6) computers that we wireless connection capability.

Copies of the Scope of Work may be obtained at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

Sealed bids must be marked "NMHC IFB-08-008". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, May 20, 2008

cated outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt o their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 20, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 20, 2008, AND must be received no later than May 30, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement of Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m., local time June 2, 2008. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time on May 30, 2008.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this procurement. This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC further notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority and women-owned business enterprises (MBE/WBE) are afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, gender, age, disability or national origin.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan Chairman of the Board

/s/ Herman S. Sablan Director, Procurement & Supply

Wiseman said that CPA does not base its complaint on allegations that Cushnie violated the Commonwealth Rules of Professional Conduct.

"Instead, CPA's complaint merely refers to the Rules, and Cushnie's possible violation of the Rules as possible evidence that Cushnie's acts and omissions with regard to CPA fell below the standard of conduct required of a lawyer in Cushnie's position," he said.

On the motion for sanctions, Wiseman viewed it as premature.

The judge noted that to award sanctions at this moment, he would be forced to act as factfinder before the other party has been afforded an opportunity to discover evidence supporting its claims or refuting the evidence presented by Cushnie.

"In essence, to rule on Cushnie's motion at this time would force the court to prematurely weigh evidence before a factfinder has been identified to try the case," Wiseman said.

In November 2006, Cushnie sued his former longtime legal secretary, Lucy M. Deleon Guerrero, for allegedly stealing money from his law office by inflating attorney's fees and forging checks.

In June 2007. Cushnie and his law firm filed a lawsuit in federal court against Bank of Hawaii and its two employees for allegedly allowing his then secretary Deleon Guerrerro to unlawfully cash on various occasions through forged signature the company's checks of over \$250,000.



PTI SUMMER WORK PROGRAM

Learn about the telecommunications industry and get paid!

PTI has summer jobs available for high school and college students!

Students must

- be at least 16 years of age;
- submit a copy of their most current school transcripts with an overall GPA of at least 3.3 or 88% (Transcripts must be submitted in a seal envelope by the educational institution);
- provide a recommendation, preferably from a prior instructor, advisor, principal, or dean;
- be currently enrolled in high school or college or show proof of enrollment for Fall 2008;
- be U.S. Citizens or legally allowed to work in the CNMI.

Some positions may require a valid CNMI driver's license.

Interested candidates must complete a PTI application and submit it, along with the other required documents, to the PTI Office of Human Resource Management located at the PTI Susupe Headquarters by Friday, May 16, 2008, 5:00 p.m. Late applications will not be accepted. For questions, please call 234-6600.

PTI is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer



Part-Time position available for our Saipan location. Applicant must have extensive knowledge of PCs. Position involves diagnosing and repairing personal computers and also customer service. Background in electronics a plus.

Computer Technician

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MMAC's Team Hyatt to host Family Fun Night

The Marianas March Against Cancer's Team Hyatt will be hosting a Family Fun Night this Friday, May 9, 2008, from 5pm to 9pm at the Hyatt Beach Front.

The 2008 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee and Team Hyatt are inviting the public to come down to the Hyatt Regency for a fun-filled evening of entertainment, delicious food and exciting games like spin the wheel, dunking game, balloon darts, face painting, ring toss and more. The entire community is urged to bring the whole family down to support Team Hyatt's efforts in raising funds for the Marianas March Against Cancer which will be held on May 16-17 from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Junior High School Track & Field in Chalan Piao. All funds raised at the Hyatt Family Fun Night and at the MMAC will go toward the battle against cancer. Call 234-1234 for more information. (PR)

MCS Class of '88 meeting

The Mt. Carmel High School Class of 1988 will have a meeting this Friday, May 9, at 6pm at the Civic Center Pala-Pala next to the tennis courts.

Plans for the 20th year reunion need to be finalized and all classmates are encouraged

For more information, contact Kazu at 483-4433 or Angela at 287-6231. (PR)

CDC hosts Bingo **Night fundraiser**

The Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition is holding a Bingo Night fundraiser on May 30, from 6pm to 12am, at the Garapan Fishing Base (where the Liberation Day Festival is held every year).

The cost is \$20 per ticket. There will be eight regular games with prizes of \$100 per game, one mini-jacket pot game with a prize of \$250, and one blackout game with a prize of \$450.

Also, for an additional \$20 a separate ticket can be purchased for the "Bingo For Life" game. Prizes for that game are \$50,000 jackpot, \$2,000 consolation prize, and \$1,500 package payout.

The public's support will be greatly appreciated. You can stop by the PT Department at CHC to pick up a ticket (7:30am-4:30pm).

If you aren't able to attend, or BINGO is

just not your thing, consider purchasing a ticket in support of the Coalition. It you purchase a ticket, there will be volunteers who will play your card for you, and deliver your winnings after the event!

The Coalition is a non-governmental organization that receives no funding from the government. It relies entirely on fundraising, public health grants, and community support in order to provide these services. (PR)

Oleai Elementary School PTSA meeting

The PTSA Officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of Oleai Elementary School that there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2008, 6pm in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. (PR)

SSHS PTSA meeting set

To all parents/legal guardian of Saipan Southern High School: There will be a PTA meeting on Wednesday May 14, 2008 at 6pm in the cafeteria. (PR)

ASVAB testing on Tinian

There will be an ASVAB testing on Tinian on May 17, 2008, at 9am, at the Tinian Gymnasium.

Please show up 30 minutes prior to testing with an identification card, i.e., passport or driver's license. (PR)

Live-fire training at Farallon de Mendenilla

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, said that the U.S. military would be conducting live-fire training on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla.

The schedule dates and time are as follow:

- \blacksquare May 7 8, from 7am to 12am
- May 9 10, 2008 from 7am to 12am

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529. VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

Muna, Inos to speak at SCC meeting

Tony Muna, the new executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and Finance Secretary Eloy Inos will speak at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting today, May 7, at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. As usual, meeting fees are \$15 for members, \$20 for guests of members, and \$25 for general public. This is a great opportunity to hear about CUC's short- and long-term plans—be sure to join us. (SCC)

WSR's May/June 2008 events

May 4-10: Teacher Appreciation Week

- Monday-Bring a flower day
- Tuesday-Bring an apple day (anything associated with apples)
- Wednesday-Bring a sweet treat day
- Thursday-Bring a praise note/thank you
- Friday-Bring a mwar/lei day
- May 5-9: Registration for WSR ongoing 2 grade students

May 5: Flag Ceremony, 8am, new stage May 7: PTSA meeting 6pm, cafeteria

May 12-16: Registration for WSR ongoing 1st grade students

May 12-16: Standards based assessment week 3rd/4th/5th/6th grade

May 13: NJHS meeting 2:30 pm, room g-2 May 14: April/May peace builders diners club, 1pm cafeteria

May 14: Pizza night fundraising

May 16: Book fair, 8am-2pm

May 19-21: RFA/BRI testing (half day)

May 23: 3rd grade campout

May 26: Memorial Day holiday (no classes) May 28: 6th grade promotional ceremony, 10am, multi purpose center

June 2: 4th quarter award ceremony

June 3: Last day of school/report card day June9-30: Open Registration

Due to the safety concerns that we have with students wearing "heelies" at school, WSR Elementary School will not allow the use of heelies on campus. Students may wear the shoe, but without the wheels attached. Thank you for your cooperation. (PR)

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 - Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147 Email: administration@cda.gov.mp - Website: www.cda.gov.mp

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: Accountant II

Salary: PL 27/01 - \$19,511.46 to PL 27/05 - \$23,706.21 P/A Closing Date: May 13, 2008

Opening Date: April 29, 2008

Position: Accountant III

Salary: PL 29/01 - \$21,506.41

Opening Date: April 29, 2008 to PL 29/05 - \$26,131.39 P/A Closing Date: May 13, 2008

Location: COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, SAIPAN

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with employment application form, during regular working hours at the CDA Office in Gualo Rai Saipan or the Office of Personnel Management during working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the Office of Personnel Management in Garapan, Saipan no later than 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 13, 2008.

Inquiries may be directed to Christy N. Kintol, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6245 or by email to administration@cda.gov.mp.

/s/ Oscar C. Camacho Acting Chief Executive Officer

Vacancy Announcement

PART TIME

Connecting Families Inc. is looking for an energetic and dynamic individual to fill the position of

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

for the private non-profit organization which is in the process of opening a family visitation center.

Minimum Requirements:

Bachelor's of Science in any field related to Social Services with at least two years supervisory or managerial experience and/or equivalent. Accounting or grant writing experience is a plus. Available to work on weekends.

Minimum Qualification:

Excellent Written/Verbal Communication Skills Computer Proficiency in Microsoft Office Program

Interested applicants must submit their RESUME on or before: Friday, May 9, 2008. Resumes may be dropped off at the Family Court Division, 1st floor, Guma Justicia (Court House) in Susupe, attention Patrick V. Diaz.

For more information, please contact Bertha Leon Guerrero at 322-5437 or 483-2376.

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES **MAY 7, 1999**

New takeover bid

In its continuing attempt to control CNMI's labor and immigration functions, President Clinton's special representative to the 902 talks has offered a new package of proposals that would apply US laws on immigration, minimum wage and customs in the Northern Marianas. In a letter to Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan, Edward B. Cohen outlined steps Washington could implement if the federal government assumes jurisdiction of the immigration and minimum wage policies of the Commonwealth.

DOLI gets poor rating from businessmen

Inefficient, very slow, prejudiced and too bureaucratic—this was how the members of Saipan Chamber of Commerce rated the performance of the Department of Labor and Immigration. Unfortunately, DOLI Secretary Mark Zachares was not there to clarify various issues namely, the never ending delays in the processing of documents, bonding fees, deportation of non resident workers, amnesty and the influx of undocumented immigrants to the CNMI.

Security deposit bill hits rough waters

Despite mounting calls from the business sector, a bill easing a requirement for foreign investors to post a \$100,000 security deposit appears to run into troubles in the Senate as it is still awaiting committee review more than nine months after it passed the lower house. But Sen. Juan P. Tenorio, whose committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs has been tasked to deliberate on the measure, said they would soon come up with amendment for final voting on the floor. He did not provide specific date.

MAY 7, 2000

More contaminants unearthed

Additional sampling and assessment measures are necessary to completely address contamination concerns originating from the Puerto Rico dumpsite following the discovery of a number of other low-level contaminants. Although the contaminants do not endanger public health and the environment, Earth Tech Inc., has recommended a more extensive round of sediment sampling and total closure of the Puerto Rico dumpsite to prevent any leaching of contamination.

It's back to school for Kagman kids

Kagman community members heaved a sigh of relief Saturday after findings of a Guam-based air-quality specialist labeled the presence of fibers inside some Kagman Elementary School classrooms a non-health risk. With this development, the school administration announced it will resume regular class sessions starting 7:30am until 3pm Tuesday, May 8, after faculty and staff finalize last-minute campus clean-ups today.

CUC accused of nepotism

Not even close to getting over a financial controversy, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation may yet again face tight scrutiny by the Legislature following reports it recently hired employees who are close relatives of its board members. CUC recently hired Danny Quitugua, reportedly a brother-in-law of Board Member Frank Flores, as computer analyst under the Electronic Data Processing Department for \$50,000 per year.

MAY 7, 2001

CPA hit by travel crunch

Revenues generated by the Commonwealth Ports Authority from its aviation division dropped 5 percent during the first six months of financial year 2002, reflecting a decline in overall passenger traffic at the islands' air transport facilities. A report obtained from the CPA disclosed that aviation revenues dropped to \$7.01 million in the period covering October-March 2002, compared with the \$7.4 million recorded during the same period last year.

CUC revives fuel surcharge plan

With the continuous increase in fuel prices, the comptroller of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation emphasized the need to implement a fuel surcharge program that would levy on the customers' billings oil price adjustments that increase operational cost. Saying that such a program is "more in line with the times," comptroller Rufo T. Mafnas said supporting such a program is "more fiscally prudent," as he also disclosed that the improvement in the CUC's financial condition was due to reduced fuel cost.

APIL CONFERENCE

Sen. Maria Pangelinan of the CNMI presents a CNMI Legislative Resolution to USMC Col. (retired) Ben Guerrero for his help on veterans matters to veterans in the CNMI prior to the start of the APIL assembly Monday morning. From left are Guerrero. Cris Reves. Pangelinan, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Manglona and Speaker Judy Won Pat of the Guam Legislature. **EDUARDO SIGUENZA**





NEW APIL COMMITTEE CHAIR

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero, right, has been chosen as chairman of the Economic Development Committee of the Association of Pacific Islands Legislatures during yesterday's conference. The

conference, which ends tomorrow, started on May 5, 2008, and was attended by lawmakers from American Samoa, the CNMI, Guam, Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap, Marshall Islands, Palau, Hawaii, Nauru, and Kibirati.

EDUARDO SIGUENZA

Driving without license is now a civil offense

A new law has reclassified driving without license, formerly a crime of misdemeanor, as a civil offense.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has approved the legislation, which is seen to save the courts an undetermined amount of money.

"I agree with the findings of the Legislature that due to the nature of the offense, driving without immediate possession of a valid license should be a civil offense instead of a misdemeanor," Fitial said.

He added, "I am aware that offenders end up with a criminal record, which can be considered a heavy punishment since the offense lacks a victim. I appreciate that by turning this crime into a civil offense, the government will save money form having to appoint attorneys to represent indigent offenders," he added.

Under the new law, a person caught driving without a license will simply have to pay up to \$50 for the first offense, and up to \$100 for any second or subsequent offense.

In other news, the governor also signed into law a bill including electrical upgrades to the projects covered by a previous \$1.2-million appropriation for the Tinian High School.

The lawmakers say the upgrade is needed to accommodate the school's increased voltage requirements. (Agnes E. Donato)



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



INVITATION TO BID NMHC IFB08-007

This ad is paid for with HUD funds.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the CONSTRUCTION OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS JAPAN CULTURAL CENTER PERIMETER PATHWAY/GROUTED ROCK RIPRAP/SITE LIGHTING in Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Friday, May 2, 2008, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI and austerity holidays. A non-refundable payment of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$3.55 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by U.S. law. Bidders are further advised to participate the increase of \$.50 per hour that is scheduled to take effect on May 26, 2008.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, May 12, 2008, at the Northern Marianas Japan Cultural Center in Garapan, Saipan next to the Garapan Central Park, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed project site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked NMHC ITB-08-007. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m.**, **local time**, **May 23**, **2008**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, May 23, 2008 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service no later than May 23, 2008 AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than June 4, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, June 5, 2008. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time, May 23, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Construction Portion for the Landscaping of the NM Japan Cultural Center Project". Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

der submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is Ninety (90) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Five Hundred Dollars (US\$500.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible.

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

PTI signs accord with Hawaiian Telcom for directory assistance

PTI, the CNMI's communications leader, was recently chosen to provide directory assistance to Hawaiian Telcom customers, with service beginning as early as next month.

Hawaiian Telcom selected PTI after searching for a company with an established track record of quality service, the ability to minimize customer service impacts during transition, the ability to provide additional directory services, and the willingness to commit to stringent quality standards.

PTI CEO Ricky Delgado was pleased to announce the deal and said that the partnership renews familiar bonds between the two communications providers.

"Having both been part of the same family for many years, PTI was a natural fit in helping Hawaiian Telcom achieve its customer service objectives. We at PTI look forward to working closely with Hawaiian Telcom to ensure world-class quality customer service," said Delgado.

Hawaiian Telcom previous directory assistance provider, Metro One Telecommunications, announced that it was withdrawing from its nationwide directory assistance business this past March.

While currently providing directory assistance to the people of the CNMI and Guam, answering the call of overseas customers is nothing new to PTI. The agreement with Hawaiian Telcom means that the duties of providing the highest level of directory assistance service to the people of Hawaii falls on

In order to provide Hawaiian Telcom's customers the same high quality of service currently enjoyed by the CNMI and Guam, PTI will soon be opening a locally-staffed 20 seat call center on Saipan to answer the needs of the additional flow of communications to and from the Marianas.

PTI executive vice president and general manager Larry Knecht said that the deal provides another venue for PTI's highly trained staff to put its quality service on display.

"This deal allows PTI the ability to expand upon one of the areas in which we excel, and the hard-working people of the CNMI are ready to bring the Hafa Adai spirit to the Islands of the shoulders of the people of Aloha," said Knecht. (PTI)

Public forum on state of Legislature today

day, May 7, at the Multipurpose Center in Susupe, in the Annex, beginning at 6pm.

Rep. Tina Sablan, who is organizing the forum, said that this will be the first of what will be a series of quarterly forums over the next two years.

She said the forums aim to provide the community with information on activities within the Legislature on an ongoing basis, including bills introduced, voting records, and attendance records of members of the House and Senate; to share insights on the legislative process and how it can be improved; and to promote dialogue in the com-

the state of the Legislature to- and proposed solutions. Com- everything. ments, insights, and suggestions will be solicited from forum participants, documented, publicized through various media, and transmitted to elected of-

As with the public forums held last year, these forums will be guided by ground rules. These ground rules include:

- Everyone has the right to
- Put the Commonwealth first.
- Come to the forums as a member of the community, nothing more and nothing less.
 - Be honest and direct.
- Be respectful and professional, and stick to the issues.

There will be a public forum on munity on the issues of the day • Assume nothing, question

■ Respect time limits.

■ Expect, and welcome, criti-

The following topics are proposed for discussion at this first public forum:

- 1. Solving the Commonwealth's energy crisis;
- 2. Improving transparency in the Legislature; and
- 3. Downsizing the Legislature. Other topics may be added if time is available.

The forum is free and open to the public. For more information, Sablan may be reached at 664-8931 or 483-3935, or by email at tinasablan@gmail. com. (PR)

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan NMHC Board Chairman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director **Division of Procurement & Supply**

Opinion



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EDITORIAL

Encouraging soldiers to take care of their health

t's just a change in wording on a government form. But the revision of the security clearance question on mental health is a welcome sign that the military is serious about changing how those in need of mental care are perceived and treated. It comes none too soon for service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with invisible wounds.

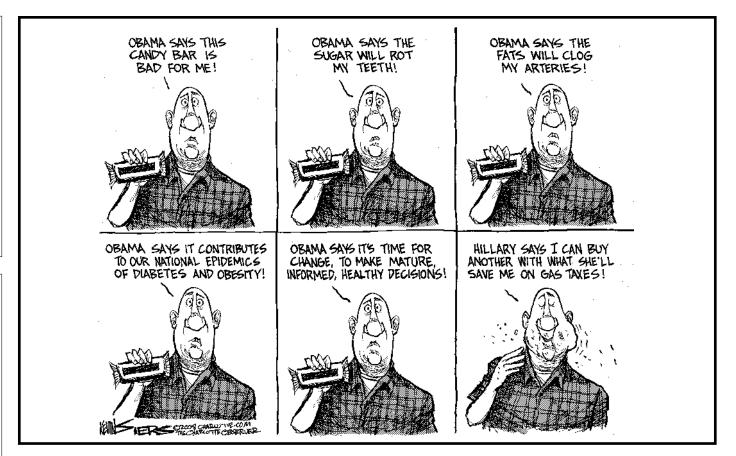
The Defense Department announced last week that applicants for government security clearances will no longer have to report mental health treatment for injuries related to combat. Details concerning treatment for grief or marital or family issues already were exempted from disclosure as long as the treatment was not court-ordered or resulting from violence. Defense officials said that in truth very few people are denied clearances for mental health issues, but the perception of a risk to careers remained.

A report by the Army inspector general last year documented that soldiers are reluctant to seek treatment because they fear losing security clearances. A study unveiled by Rand Corp. last month spelled out the consequences in startling numbers: Nearly 20 percent of those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan—300,000 in all—reported symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder or depression, but only slightly more than half sought treatment. The results of depression and PTSD going untreated are too often marital problems, drug use, unemployment and even suicide.

What Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates called the "infamous Question 21" is but one barrier to treatment. Problems persist with the system's capacity to provide effective treatment. Service members surveyed in the Rand report worried that they would be viewed as less capable, even weak, by colleagues and commanding officers. This mind-set is prompting some advocates to push for troops to be able to seek alcohol and substance abuse counseling and treatment confidentially, without notifying their commanders.

For its part, the Pentagon wants its military leaders to come forward with their own stories of receiving mental health care. It's all part of a bid to ease any stigma. The key, as was so aptly framed by Gates, is to convince a culture built on toughness that "you can be tough and seek help for dealing with these problems."

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Pew? or Pee-eew?

y friend Angelo Villagomez, with whom I occasionally agree, is the spokesman for the Pew group's attempt to get Dubya to sign on to a U.S. national park or monument encompassing our three northernmost islands and about a third of our national waters. The proposed monument is huge at about 115,000 square miles or roughly the size of the whole state of Arizona.

So far, I neither support it nor oppose it. Why? Because so far there is no proposal to look at. There are no concrete points to even talk about. We have only a moderately slick PowerPoint sales presentation with none of the specific blanks filled in. Who will administer this monument? Who will enforce the regulations? Who controls access? Who will draft the regulations? Will the U.S. government, so reluctant to provide Coast Guard security to the northern islands now, come through and do so because there is a monument? Will jobs formed benefit the local population? Will anyone be able to visit this park after the "transition period" other than a handful of government scientists? Will tourism jumpstart itself as suggested or fall flat as it did years ago? Where will the mentioned but not promised "visitor center" be sited...Saipan, Maug, Pagan? Will tourists even be allowed to go up there? Would we lose access to all natural resources there forever? Will we lose the chance of gaining control over the whole 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone for ourselves through continued litigation? How is Pew involved before and, if instituted, after the monument is formed? There are a lot more unanswered questions right now.

More than a year has passed since this was initially suggested and Pew has made several trips here (three, I believe) but still there is no concrete proposal to look at. General mistrust of government programs (having seen most of them end in endless money wasting snafus) makes me skeptical about the prospects, but the lure of a possible major benefit makes me stay open minded and non-committed until we hear real details. I am hoping that will be soon.

Prudence tells us we should have as much information as possible before making up our minds, on this or any other question. We should leave the door wide open to this proposal, when and if they come up with a formal proposal. That does not mean we should place undue emphasis on the incoming "economic study" paid for by the very people trying to sell the park idea to us. Let's gather our own facts. Let's look hard at all the real data pro and con and at the actual proposal when drafted; if the project is in our best interest, then sign on as wholehearted supporters. If not, dump it.

Be wary and remember that every good salesman tries to create a "sense of urgency." Do not be fooled into thinking this is the "last opportunity" or that "time is running out." Balderdash...the next U.S. prez is as likely (or maybe more so) to want to fatten his enviro-wallet resume with an "Ocean Park" of monumental (sorry!) proportions. Bush is not the only person who can make this happen. We need some time to see what it really entails and to decide how best to proceed or if we should proceed with it at all. Let's take our time looking and not be rushed along.

It is as ridiculous to stop the dialog now before we learn as much as we can, as it is to mindlessly jump on board as a supporter when we have no real information to go on yet. Neither position makes sense...neither furthers our cause. I see hell-bent supporters that

SOUR GRAPES

By BRUCE BATEMAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes Sour Grapes when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. "Yes, he is opinionated." Email: bbateman@pticom.com; Blog: http://saipanuvian.blogspot.com/



have signed on to the idea without a shred of hard data or real written promises to go on. I also see adamant opposition from some folks without waiting to find out if the myriad details can in fact be worked out to the benefit of the CNMI. The pro-siders seem hopeful that the U.S. government can be trusted to wield the whip gracefully and in our interest, not theirs. The opposition groups raise substantial and important questions. But no one really knows what is actually being offered, or what is to be lost. There are no specific terms and conditions to talk about yet, so let's wait and see.

On the negative side, we don't need a national park to start tourism to the Northern Islands. We don't have to let the federal government get their hooks into us via an intractable regulatory system. We don't need them to set up a visitor center or to restrict access. We can do all those things as a state park and still get some federal funding. The islands themselves are already protected by our CNMI laws and Constitution. On the positive side, if this can be made to work without the CNMI losing complete control of a third of its sea assets we need to try to work out the details when they are made public because we stand to gain access to positive international attention, some money from the feds (watch for strings) and the possibility of creating meaningful jobs.

The idea that this is somehow a good move even if it is bad for the CNMI is ludicrous. The extremist mentality that we somehow benefit our children by setting aside huge tracts of the planet that no one but chosen government workers can enter (usually the ones who touted the area's set aside in the first place) is just silly. Our children and their children are best served by making sure that every facet of our scarce resources are used and maximized to the benefit of the NMI as a whole. Specifically we must be very wary of releasing ever more control of those resources and of our very lives to the hulking bureaucracy of the United States. There may be a way this can work, but we should enter those negotiations carefully and make it abundantly clear that we must have a final say in the drafting process. We must not let them slam dunk us with a park by executive writ and then be stuck trying to make the best out of a bad deal. We must negotiate first, then and only then allow them create their park from our lands and waters. To do it the other way around is to invite disaster.

Let's hope it works out. Angelo is a good man and should provide us with some answers soon.

Quote of the Week: Truth is tough. It will not break, like a bubble, at a touch; nay, you may kick it about all day like a football, and it will be round and full at evening.

—Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809 – 1894)

The Saipan Tribune welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Saipanpreneur profile: Daniel D. and Remy Babauta

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

Uniquely Saipan Coconut Handicrafts

n a tiny island in the Pacific Ocean that many people have never heard of, a unique artist is hard at work. Daniel D. Babauta is sitting on the verandah of his home in the town of Puerto Rico, Saipan, using a set of specially made tools to carve something quite unique. In a little less than two hours, he'll finish, and he'll take his creation inside. There, Remy Babauta, his wife of 31 years will give it her approval, and something uniquely Saipan will be ready for public display and sale.

It's a Thursday morning, and in a few hours Daniel and Remy will load up their Toyota 4-Runner for the short ride to Garapan on Saipan's north end. Every Thursday night for the past 10 years, Garapan's Paseo de Marianas is host to what residents call the "Street Market" where thousands of residents and tourists alike gather starting at sunset to stroll, gaze, eat and be entertained by vendors and performers.

Daniel D. Babauta, however, is not selling food or performing. He is selling a unique collection of decorative carvings. What makes his sculptures unique is that a few of his pieces, which appear to be

comprised of multiple elements glued together, are actually expertly carved from a single coconut! Yes, Daniel D. Babauta is a coconut sculptor, and thanks to him, you can add one more thing to the list of uses for ubiquitous tropical coconut.

The coconut is known as the tree of life, and for centuries, people throughout these islands and around the world have used it for food, clothing, shelter, and medicine. Daniel uses it to make one-of-a kind works of art to brighten others homes, offices and lives.

I met the Daniel and Remy at the recent Flame Tree Festival—an annual gathering of vendors, food, fun and festivities which coincides with the spectacular red/orange blooming of the locally abundant flame tree. Daniel has been a Flame Tree regular for 23 years—almost as long as the event itself has been hosted on Saipan.

As I passed his "Coconut Handicraft" tent, I was drawn in by the uniqueness of the items on display. Remy, seated behind the table, flashed a welcoming smile, and I asked her who the artist was. She pointed to the back of the tent, and I spotted Daniel for the first time, coolly holding court among his coconut creations wearing dark glasses, a baseball cap, and a "Let Freedom Sing" t-shirt.

We chatted briefly, and I learned a bit more about the man, his craft, and his "sales agent/wife" Remy. Daniel Festival. is Chamorro and originally from Saipan. Remy is originally from Pampanga, the Philippines, and came to Saipan 33 years ago, and now speaks Chamorro. The two have three children: a daughter—Jally Marie Camacho—who's currently in San Diego, USA; a son, Jervy Babauta, who has a daughter one year and six months old; and another son, Lufo Don Babauta, who has two boys of his own. That makes three children and three grandchildren.

Daniel worked as a supervisor for the power company, where he retired in 1992.

I also discovered that he is an international emissary of sorts. Beyond the streets of Saipan, he's been to Japan three times, Korea three times as well, and also to Palau, Guam, Rota and Tinian to present his work at various art festivals and displays.

How did you get started carving coconuts?

Daniel: "When I retired, I basically had nothing to do, so I tried to carve something, you know. I carved wood. At first I did bamboo and driftwood. But doing it with wood is a lot of work, you know. Have to go around and look for good wood, know when to cut it. It's a lot of time and work, so when it's done, we have to raise the price. The first time they started the street market, they called me up to display my work. That's when I found out the wood carvings are not really sellable. That's why I switched to coconut."

How did you learn to carve the coconuts?

Daniel: "I taught myself. It took me a few months to find the right tools, and the best way to burn it."

What other animals and objects do you carve?

Daniel: "I do dolphins, monkeys, sharks, cows...I do snakes, too,

fish, sting ray, any kind. People used to ask me, 'Are there monkeys on Saipan?' So I learned that they really wanted [carvings of] what we have here on the island. So the really sellable ones are the turtle and coconut crab, and the coconut flower. Customers really like those. That's what I'm doing right now."

Who are your customers?

Daniel: "Actually, most of my customers are locals. Lately Russians, they really buy, too."

How long does it take to make one of these? (pointing to a turtle.)

Daniel: The turtle? Only about an hour and a half. Depends on what kind of design is on the back, you know.

It's then that I noticed that the turtles' shells have various designs like latte stones, the words "Chamorro" or "Saipan" as well as other unique images emblazoned on them.

How did you end up in Japan, Korea and the other islands?

Daniel: "The trip to [an international arts festival in] Japan was sponsored by MVA [Marianas Visitor's Authority]. The trips to Palau and Guam were sponsored by the Arts Council. They paid for four of us to go to represent Saipan and show and sell our work—mwars, canoe carving, and other things. (A mwar is a wreath of flowers that Carolinians wear on their heads.)

The Coco-Turtle: Saipan's symbol of sustainability

As Daniel explains to me the process for "finishing" the sculptures,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

We chatted briefly, and I learned a bit more about the Daniel D. Babauta and his wife Remy pose at their booth during the recent Flame Tree Arts

I still can't help but be amazed that this multi-element creation was carved from a single dry coconut. It's so simple in material, and yet so profound in meaning.

The modern world would call him a "green" artist, using natural, bio-degradable materials and sustainable processes to make his art, but Daniel D. Babauta is simply doing what has always made the most sense to conscious people for centuries.

A local historian I met the same day at the Flame Tree Festival told me that in many indigenous languages, there's no word for "trash." It makes sense, when you think about it. When your food, clothing, shelter, tools, toys and even the decorations for your home all come directly from the earth, there's nothing unnatural left over, nothing to throw away, nothing that simply cannot return to the soil from whence it came. There are no energy-intensive, resource-depleting, environmentally unsustainable, formaldehyde-emitting, chemical-infused plastics and materials to clutter, congest, confuse or clog your existence, or your language. You eat a mango, and seed and skin are not trash—they return to the soil to feed other animals and plants and also to create life anew. You drink a soda, however, and you've got Styrofoam, or perhaps an aluminum can and straw to contend with, and find ever-inventive ways to dispose of.

As the modern world awakens and quickens its efforts to slow, halt and hopefully reverse the effects of decades of ill-conceived decisions in the name of progress, what I call Daniel's "coco-turtle" takes on more meaning than just a tourist keepsake. It's a symbolic representation of a man's passion, a people's connection to the land, a culture's consciousness, and a roadmap for the future, carved in the most basic of ways, with the most natural of materials. It's a reminder of the centuries-long tradition of "original sustainability." Associated in many cultures with longevity, wisdom, patience, pro-

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.



tection, at home within itself, and adaptable to land as well as sea, the turtle is full of symbolic meaning. Daniel's turtle becomes a symbol of long life carved from the tree of life, with respect for life: Saipan's Symbol of Survival and Sustainability!

Own a Piece of Paradise

Saipan is a unique place. It's a part of America that many Americans have never heard of. It's a land of contrasts and contradictions. It represents hope for many, hardship for some, but home for all. It boasts the most beautiful sunsets, the warmest people, and a gathering place for people from many places around the world. On any given Thursday night, Daniel finds himself showing and selling his uniquely Saipan carvings to Russians, Koreans, Japanese, Chinese, Americans Filipinos, Bangladeshis Australians and a dozen other nationalities that interact here on Saipan.

If you're a visitor to the paradise islands of Saipan, Tinian or Rota, you can bask in the sunshine, dive in the deepest, clearest

waters on the planet, sail, surf and snorkel to your heart's content. You'll leave with memories, but those memories may eventually blur, your tan will fade, and your photos, while great, will fail to capture the reality of the moments you spent there.

However, if you're lucky enough to visit Daniel D. Babauta's table at the end of the Paseo de Marianas, in Garapan, Saipan, CNMI, USA this Thursday night, you can leave with something more. You can leave with something fed by the same soil, nurtured by the same sun, quenched by the same rain that fed, nurtured and quenched this man and his people for generations. You can show your family and friends the unique work of a humble artist on a tiny island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean who brings together past, present and future with, of all things....a single coconut. And, if you can't make it to Saipan, don't worry. Daniel and Remy will be happy to send a piece of Saipan to you wherever you are!

Daniel's pieces of paradise creations are available online at www.Saipancrafts.com, and include the following, which range in price from \$15 to \$25:

"Saipan Coco-Turtle" (\$15), "Sailboat Island" (\$25), & "Mom's Long Life Flower Pot" (\$25). (Get mom a Mother's day bouquet that won't ever wilt--a pot of flowers made with coconuts and chopsticks!)

If ordering by mail, include \$8.95 for Priority Mail shipping (to the US mainland, Guam and Hawaii) and send to

Daniel Babauta

PO BOX 5033, CHRV

Saipan, MP 96950 Call 670 322 3027,

Or, if you stop by this Thursday, you can get them little cheaper from Daniel himself!

Calling All Crafts

Inspired by my interview with Daniel, and in an effort to provide sources of income to local artisans, if you have or know of someone with unique handicrafts to sell on the SaipanCrafts.com site, contact me at walt@passionprofit.com. Details for sellers are provided on the site.

Note: For more tips on acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit. com!

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲86° **▼7**5°

Palau Yap

Chuuk

Pohnpei

Kosrae

Maiuro

Auckland

Hong Kong

Los Angeles

Melbourne

New York

Honolulu

London

Manila

Miami

Osaka

Paris

Pusan

Rome

Salem

Seoul

Tokyo

San Francisco

Beijing

Micronesia

Guam and Rota Partly Sunny ▲86 ▼75

Around The Globe

Cloudy

Showers

Showers

Partly Sunny

Cloudy

Cloudy

Cloudy

Sunny

Sunny

Cloudy

Showers

Thunderstorms ▲85 ▼78

Thunderstorms ▲87 ▼77

Partly Sunny ▲87 ▼78

Thunderstorms ▲84 ▼72

Thunderstorms ▲87 ▼75

Thunderstorms ▲82 ▼74

Thunderstorms ▲ 87 ▼79

Thunderstorms ▲94 ▼77

Mostly Sunny ▲84 ▼73

Mostly Sunny ▲ 72 ▼59

Mostly Sunny ▲75 ▼49

Mostly Cloudy ▲58 ▼38

Mostly Sunny ▲ 75 ▼56

▲64 ▼52

▲ 75 ▼58

▲80 **▼**73

▲72 ▼55

▲70 **▼**55

▲63 ▼53

▲77 ▼58

▲77 ▼58

▲77 ▼57

▲60 **▼**47

▲65 ▼49

THURSDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲85° ▼76°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▼76°

▲85°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers

▲85° ▼76°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲85° ▼76°

170

WAKE SAIPAN GUAM

Yesterday's Satellite Image

PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2008

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough stretches eastward from 8N130E through a circulation located near 6N138E to end at EQ150E. Convergent west winds south of the trough are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Palau and southeast of Yap or south of a line from 7N130E to 5N140E to eq147E. Convergent trade winds north of the trough are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms around Palau and Yap between 8N and 12N from 130E to 141E and south of Guam between the equator and 6N 10N between 141E and 151E and within 75 miles of a line from 11N142E to EQ150E. Trade-wind convergence coupled with upper-level divergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in an extensive area which includes Chuuk state, Pohnpei state, Kosrae state and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. This area lies within 200 miles of a line from 6N152E to 5N180.

Tides								
Saipan Harbor								
2:50AM Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet						
7:44AM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet						
3:09PM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet						
10:19PM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet						

Washington, DC Partly Sunny ▲82 ▼61

Sui	rrise/Suns	et
Today	5:51AM	6:36PM
Thursday	5:51AM	6:36PM
Friday	5:50AM	6:37PM
Saturday	5:50AM	6:37PM
Sunday	5:50AM	6:37PM

Mooi	nrise/Moon	set
Today	7:00AM	8:37PM
Thursday	8:04AM	9:44PM
Friday	9:11AM	10:45PM
Saturday	10:16AM	11:38PM
Sunday	11:17AM	

160

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The Saipan Tribune accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES ■ ISLAND SNAPSHOTS

- Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones,
- accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings at other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ TRÁVELOGUE

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the Saipan Tribune to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when)

■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to

next day's edition.

■ E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or

HOW TO SUBMIT

Garapan, Saipan

- jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com. Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950 ■ Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road,
- To check if contrib 6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the Saipan Tribune reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

DEPARTURES ARRIVALS Saipan-Rota Rota-Saipan CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7 CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6 Saipan-Guam **Guam-Saipan** CO9317 4:00am CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am 4:50am Daily Daily CO9597 8:30am CO9596 7:00am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 7:50am Daily CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3.4.7 via Rota CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1.2.6 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9603 3:30pm CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm 4:20pm Daily Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily Saipan-Narita Narita-Saipan NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via NW 076 10:15am 2:50pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily Nagoya Saipan-Osaka **Osaka-Saipan** NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily Saipan-Nagoya Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily Saipan-Manila Manila-Saipan CO 895 4:45nm 6:35nm 6 CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm Saipan-Seoul Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 2,4,6,7 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6 2,4,6,7 Busan-Saipan Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7 1,4,5,7 **Guam-Manila** Manila-Guam CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 and Koror CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2.7 and Yap CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7 PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1.3.5.6.7 Saipan-Guanzhou Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6 CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5 **Guam-Hongkong Hongkong-Guam** CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5 CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5 **Rota-Guam Guam-Rota** CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6 CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3.4.7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1) Tuesday (2) Wednesday (3) Thursday (4) Friday (5) Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD E	TA Frequ	ency	Airlin	ie	ETD	ETA Frequ	uency
Guam-R	ota			FRE 11	-	11:40am		Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 11		1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Sai	ipan			FRE 11		2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 11		4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-F	Rota			FRE 12		4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 12		5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Gu	am			FRE 12	5 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian	ı-Sai	inan w/	connect	ina
Guam-R	ota						Guam**	9
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	9			- uuuiii	
Rota-Sai	ipan			FRE 10	2	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 10		7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Saipan-F	Rota			FRE 10		8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 10		9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Rota-Gเ	ıam			FRE 11	0	10:00an		Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 11:	_	11:05am		Daily
Saipan-1				FRE 11		12:00pn		Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 11	6	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 11		2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 12		4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 12		5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily	FRE 12		6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily	FRE 12	6	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

NMI CRIME **STOPPERS**

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone ■ *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2008 **13**

Island Snapshots

AMERICORPS PROCLAMATION

Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez signs the proclamation declaring May 11-18 as CNMI National AmeriCorps Week, while Education Commissioner David M. Borja, CNMI AmeriCorps members and supervisors look on at the Saipan Southern High School cafeteria Monday afternoon. JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



PRECIOUS DONATION

Christiane Wei 8, curiously looks at a clay bowl dated from 1500 B.C. donated by the Creation Museum in Texas to the Eucon International College JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Kay Inos and James Deleon Guerrero from the Department of Public Safety pose with Chai McDermott and Walter Villagomez, staff of Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio, during a recent visit to the Marianas House in Washington D.C.



WORKERS' COALITION

Officers of the newly formed Coalition of United Guest Workers (CNMI) headed by its president Irene N. Tantiado gather at the Garapan Central Park for its first general assembly Sunday morning.



Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio's staff was paid a courtesy visit by Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan, State Rehabilitation Council chair.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marissa Guerrero, active member of the Autism Society of the CNMI, and Aileen Farley of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, have their souvenir picture taken at the Marianas House in Washington D.C.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Christine Torres, who will soon be graduating from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, during her recent visit to the Marianas House in Washington D.C.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Guam activist Alfredo Antolin talks to members of the newly formed Coalition of United Guest Workers (CNMI) on the issues of federalization at the Garapan Central Park during the group's first general assembly



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Children of nonresident workers gather beneath a banner during the first general assembly of the newly formed Coalition of United Guest Workers (CNMI) at the Garapan Central Park Sunday morning.



DEKADA FORUM

Dekada Movement counsel Stephen C. Woodruff speaks on "Federalization and Long-Term Resident Status: What Does It Mean and Where Do We Go From Here?" while Dekada president Boni Sagana and other guest workers listen during a general meeting and informational forum hosted by the Dekada Movement, MOVER, Bicol Association, Unity Core Group, and the United Filipino Organization at the Bicol Pavilion on Kilili Beach Saturday.

Business

Oil passes \$120, even as gas prices slip

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil futures surged to a new record over \$120 a barrel Monday, raising concerns about higher prices for gasoline and goods and services throughout the economy. Retail gas prices fell more than a cent over the weekend, but oil's advance increased the likelihood that pump prices would resume their climb.

Supply threats that emerged

overseas and a weaker dollar according to AAA and the Oil sent light, sweet crude for June delivery to a new trading record of \$120.36 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange before futures retreated slightly to settle up \$3.65 at a record \$119.97.

The average national price of a gallon of regular gas slipped to \$3.611 a gallon on Monday, down 1.1 cents from Friday, Price Information Service. Prices reached a record \$3.623 a gallon on Thursday.

But if oil prices continue climbing, gas prices could rise as high as \$3.75 a gallon on a national basis, Green said, though, "in some places, it's already above \$4 a gallon."

Oil's sharp rise this year has driven gas prices to unprecedented levels, prompting consumers to reconsider summer vacation plans and limit daily excursions; they're also spending less at malls and shopping centers because they're paying more not just for fuel, but for all kinds of goods and services. Americans are also being pinched by tight credit conditions, a sluggish jobs market and a down-

turn in the housing market.

"American consumers are being hit hard financially from a bunch of different directions," said Troy Green, a spokesman for AAA.

In most years, gas prices peak in May or early June, then mostly decline for the rest of the year. But oil at \$120-and risingmay force the experts to rewrite their rulebook.

Food inflation to impact pork, chicken prices

AP BUSINESS WRITER

Americans may be getting another helping of food inflation, and it seems likely to come from higher prices for chicken

and pork. Overall food inflation could double this year, lifted by the rising costs of fuel, corn and sovbeans, some analysts predict.

Food inflation hit 4 percent last year, up from 2.4 percent in 2006. While beef prices were already high, chicken and pork prices didn't reflect record costs for feed and fuel. That's poised to change as chicken and pig producers who have been losing money slaughter more animals to decrease the supply and raise the prices they can charge.

Higher food inflation would further challenge shoppers who are already limiting themselves to sale items and store brands as they contend with the worst food inflation since 1990.

Mary Lee Rydzewski, a retired Amtrak engine dispatcher who lives in Cheshire, Conn., says she has already switched to store brands and sale items because of higher food prices. If they increase more, she plans to cut back again.

But Karen Leedahl, a pastor who lives in Latrobe, Penn., said she always bought store brands and shopped for sale goods. Two weeks ago, she started walking more than a mile round-trip to the grocery store instead of driving.

If prices increase more, "I'm kind of in trouble," she said. "I was already trying to save."



In this March 5, 2008 file photo, a Costco worker stacks chicken at a Costco in Mountain View, Calif.

U.S. shoppers spent 5.8 percent of their income on food in 2006, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture—a lower proportion than any other nation. In the United Kingdom, consumers spent 8.7 percent of their income on food, and in most of the world it's at least 10 percent.

But the U.S. portion seems certain to rise, as chicken and pig producers say prices have to go up as feed costs increase.

"American consumers are only just beginning to feel the impact of sharply higher food prices," said Pilgrim's Pride Corp. Chief Executive Clint Rivers. The nation's largest chicken producer posted a wider quarterly loss Monday as it paid more for feed and took a restructuring charge.

Tyson Foods Inc., the world's biggest meat producer, forecasts that its expenses will rise \$1 billion this year, including \$600 million for corn and soybean meal and \$100 million on grain. The balance will come from higher prices for cooking oil, breading and fuel costs, the company said. Last week Tyson reported a \$5 million second-quarter loss and withdrew its earnings outlook, saying feed prices were too volatile.

"I think food inflation has got to go up," said C. Larry Pope, president and chief executive of Smithfield Foods Inc., the world's largest pork producer, in a recent speech. "Everything that uses wheat, everything that uses corn, everything that uses corn syrup has got to go up."

The exception may be beef, as already high beef prices may not see the increases that chicken and pork could, said Jim Hilker, an agricultural economist at Michigan State University. "I'm not sure beef prices will go up a lot, but they won't come back down."

Pork farm losses, though, may total \$3.8 billion for 2008, one-quarter of total production, according to Chris Hurt, an agricultural economist at Purdue University. He calls the industry "a financial disaster in progress.'

Stocks end lower after Microsoft pulls Yahoo bid

NEWYORK (AP)—Wall Street pulled back Monday following Microsoft Corp.'s decision to withdraw its bid for Yahoo Inc. and as oil prices rose to a new record over \$120 a barrel

Microsoft had offered \$47.5 billion to buy Yahoo Inc., but scrapped the bid late Saturday after the software maker and the Internet provider could not agree on a sale price. The failed deal came as a disappointment to Wall Street, as merger-andacquisition activity tends to boost shareholder value, and also signals to the broader market that corporate America is optimistic about the future.

A jump in oil prices raised concerns that inflation could force consumers, who account for more than two-thirds of the economy, to cut their spending on discretionary items. Crude oil futures for June delivery surged to a new trading high of \$120.36 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange before pulling back to settle up \$3.65 at a record \$119.97. The jump followed worries over supply disruptions in areas such as Nigeria, Iran and Iraq.

"Energy is a very important piece," said Russell Croft, portfolio manager at Croft Leominster Investment Management in Baltimore, referring to the mood of both investors and consumers. "It's the price at the pump, it's what people read about."

ASIAN MARKETS AUSTRALIA HONG KONG 26,194.43 TOKYO 14,049.26 1,274.61 Up 3.13 (+0.25%) SINGAPORE MANILA 2,727.70 Down 37.82 (-1.37%) 3,247.21 Down 0.83 BANGKOK SEOUL 608.38 LEADING **INDICATORS** DOW 12,969.54 -0.68% **NASDAQ** 2,464.12 -0.52% S&P 1,407.49 -0.45% **MONEY MARKET** Australian Dollar 1.0586

British Pound

Canadian Dollar

Chinese Renmbi

Hong Kong Dollai

Indonesian Rupiah

Malaysian Ringgit

New Zealand Dollar

Philippine Peso

Singapore Dollar

Swiss Franc

Taiwan Dollar

Thailand Baht

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Pres

South Korean Won

Indian Runee

Japanese Yen

Euro

0.5069

1.0112

6.9837

0.6445

40.69

9,226

104.825

3.1485

1.273

42.255

1.3579

1016.6

1,0511

30.482

31.705

BoG's Carlson earns national certification

HAGATNA, Guam—Amoretta P. Carlson, vice president, Bank of Guam, was recently awarded the Certified Corporate

Trust Specialist designation by the Institute of Certified Bankers, a nonprofit organization sponsored by the American Bankers Association in Washington, DC.

With the Bank of Guam since 1983,

Carlson has managed the Business Development, Customer Service and Real Estate Departments before joining the Trust

Carlson

Department in 2005. She is a cum laude graduate of the University of Guam, earned while working fulltime at the bank.

Married to Lester Carlson, they have three daughters.

The CCTS designation is awarded to individuals who demonstrate excellence in the field of corporate trust. To qualify for CCTS certification,

individuals must have certain levels of experience and education in the corporate trust profession, pass an exam and agree

to abide by a code of ethics. The exam covers many areas including account administration and management, issuance of securities, regulations, accounting systems and operations.

Financial services professionals, working through the Institute of Certified Bankers, initiated the CCTS and eight others in order to establish meaningful standards of knowledge in specialty areas of the financial services industry. ICB certifications formally recognize those who meet these standards and promote professional continuing education and development. (BoG)

Fed sees tighter bank lending standards

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve reported Monday that more banks are tightening lending standards on home mortgages, other types of consumer loans and business loans in response to a spreading credit crisis.

The Fed said the percentage of banks reporting tighter lending standards was near historic highs for nearly all loan categories.

The survey, conducted in April, found that nearly two-thirds of banks surveyed had tightened lending standards on traditional home mortgages with 15 percent saying those standards had been tightened considerably.

But the survey found that the tougher lending standards extend far beyond home mortgages to other types of consumer debt such as credit cards and home equity lines of credit.

The current credit crisis began last year with rising defaults in the market for subprime loans, loans extended to borrowers with weak credit histories. Many of those subprime loans were packaged into mortgage-backed securities and sold to investors around the world.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2008 **15**

Nation

Survey: More than 3.5 million new voters

DURHAM, N.C. (AP)—Voter excitement, always up before a presidential election, is pushing registration through the roof so far this year - with more than 3.5 million people rushing to join in the historic balloting, according to an Associated Press survey that offers the first national snapshot.

Figures are up for blacks, women and young people. Rural and city. South and North.

Overall, the AP found that nearly one in 65 adult Americans signed up to vote in just the first three months of the year. And in the 21 states that were able to provide comparable data, new registrations have soared about 64 percent from the same three months in the 2004 campaign.

Voters are flocking to the most open election in half a century, inspired to support the first female president, the first black or the oldest ever elected.

Also, the bruising Democrat-



has lasted longer than anyone ex-

pected, creating a burst of interest in states typically ignored in an election year.

Some Democratic Party leaders bemoan the long battle, with two strong candidates continuing to undercut each other. But there are clear signs that the registration boom is favoring their party, at least for now.

"This could change the face of American politics for decades to come," said Democratic Gov. Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas, predicting permanent gains for her party. Republicans, concerned at least somewhat for 2008, say these surges come and go over the longer term.

While detailed data are available from only a handful of states, registration seems to be up particularly strongly for blacks and women.

Among the new voters in North Carolina is Shy Ector, 25,



Voters crowded the caucus site in Dededo, Guam, to cast their votes for the presidential hopeful of their choice during the Saturday, May 3, 2008, Democratic caucuses.

Clinton, Obama duel on gas prices

DURHAM, N.C. (AP)—Du- ing a tightening race since eling over gas prices, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama strained for every last vote on Monday, the eve of the Indiana and North Carolina primaries that are the biggest prizes left in their epic Democratic nomination fight.

Her TV ads promoted her plan for a summer-long gas-tax holiday and contended she was the candidate who "gets it." He said the plan was just another Washington stunt.

A combined 187 delegates are at stake in the two states, nearly half of the pledged delegates left with eight primaries to go before voting ends in a month.

Obama was the favorite in North Carolina, but both candidates campaigned vigorously there with polls show-

Clinton's win in Pennsylvania two weeks ago. Indiana was considered tighter, with most polls in the final days showing Clinton taking the lead.

Obama hurried back and forth between the two states, pleading for votes. "I want your vote. I want it badly," he said on a factory floor in Durham, one of many stops aimed at winning over working-class voters. He is hoping to gain support from a group that has not greeted his candidacy enthusiastically - white, mostly male construction and factory

Clinton, also campaigning in North Carolina, campaigned for blue-collar votes, too, talking about the hard times the country faces.

of Durham. She favored Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry while a student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill four years ago, but never actually took the time to make sure she was registered to vote. Barack Obama's candidacy was enough to make sure she did this year, she said.

"I was like 'Oh, now this is a reason to vote. This is different," Ector said. "I was inspired and I was excited."

New voters are generally less reliable. So there's no guarantee this year's newcomers will stick around in years to come - or even cast ballots in November if their candidate doesn't make it.

"I will be very disappointed, and it will take me some time to recover," Ector said of an Obama loss to Hillary Rodham Clinton. "I'm not going to say I'm just going to write off politics for good, but it does make you feel like you're doing all this work for nothing, and nothing's coming to fruition."

Even if some discouraged new voters drop off, the numbers are striking.

ACROSS THE NATION

Top US commando says strain of war limits forces elsewhere

WASHINGTON (AP)—The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are making such heavy use of the nation's Green Berets and other elite warriors that they cannot fulfill their roles in other parts of the world, the military's top commando told The Associated Press on Monday. "We're going to fewer countries, staying for shorter periods of time, with smaller numbers of people than historically we have done," Adm. Eric T. Olson said in his first interview since becoming commander of U.S. Special Operations Command last July. Olson, himself a combat veteran, saw little chance that the demand for his special operations forces in Iraq will decline anytime soon. Even as the overall American force there shrinks - from about 158,000 now to about 140,000 by the end of July - the number of special operations forces in the war zone is likely to increase, he said.

Iraqi alleges Abu Ghraib torture, sues US contractors

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- An Iraqi man sued two U.S. military contractors Monday, claiming he was repeatedly tortured while being held at the notorious Abu Ghraib prison for more than 10 months. Emad al-Janabi's federal lawsuit, filed in Los Angeles, claims that employees of CACI International Inc. and L-3 Communications Holdings Inc. punched him, slammed him into walls, hung him from a bed frame and kept him naked and handcuffed in his cell beginning in September 2003. Also named as a defendant is CACI interrogator Steven Stefanowicz, known as "Big Steve." The suit claims he directed some of the torture tactics.

Investigators: Sea lion killers were familiar with traps

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Investigators think the killers navigated tricky waters in a restricted area, dropped the doors of two metal cages and then began firing a high-powered rifle at six trapped sea lions. The sea lions' carcasses were found Sunday in floating cages moored at the base of Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River. The animals congregate there to dine on the spring run of endangered chinook salmon trying to get upstream to spawn. Wildlife agents last month started to trap the sea lions and remove the worst offenders. Only one of the six was among the California sea lions that frequent the dam. Two were Steller sea lions, which prefer sturgeon over salmon.

Idaho team readies artificial beak for wounded bald eagle

ST. MARIES, Idaho (AP)—She has been named Beauty, though this eagle is anything but. Part of Beauty's beak was shot off several years ago, leaving her with a stump that is useless for hunting food. A team of volunteers is working to attach an artificial beak to the disfigured bird, in an effort to keep her alive. "For Beauty it's like using only one chopstick to eat. It can't be done" said biologist Jane Fink Cantwell, who operates a raptor recovery center in this Idaho Panhandle town. "She has trouble drinking. She can't preen her feathers. That's all about to change." Cantwell has spent the past two years assembling a team to design and build an artificial beak. They plan to attach it to Beauty this month. With the beak, the 7-year-old bald eagle could live to the age of 50, although not in the wild.

Vog kills plants, casts haze over Hawaii

OCEANVIEW, Hawaii (AP)— For eight years, Tony and Sam Bayaoa have grown thousands of bright red, yellow and pink protea flowers on their farm. Then in March, Kilauea volcano opened a new vent and began spewing double the usual amount of toxic gas.

Now about 70 percent of their crop is dried, brown and brittle.

"The first reaction was - did someone poison the plants?" said Tony Bayaoa, whose two-acre farm is 35 miles from the volcano. "I've lost my livelihood."

Big Island crops are shriveling as sulfur dioxide from Kilauea wafts over them and envelops them in "vog," or volcanic smog. People are wheezing, and schoolchildren are being kept indoors during recess. High gas levels led



Dan Wegner examines vog damage to a protea blossom, Wednesday, April 30, 2008, at his flower farm in Ocean View on the Big Island of

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park to close several days last month, forcing the evacuation of thousands of visitors.

Residents of this volcanic is-

land are used to toxic gas. But this haze is so bad that farmers are thinking about growing different crops, and many people are worrying about their health.

'D.C. Madam' apologized to mom, sister in suicide notes

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—The woman known as the "D.C. Madam" apologized to her mother and sister in suicide notes, saying she couldn't bear going to prison and saw killing herself as the only "exit strategy."

Deborah Jeane Palfrey, convicted last month of running an elite Washington prostitution ring, wrote to her mother that she could not "live the next 6-8 years behind bars for what you and I have come to regard as this 'modern day lynching,' only to come out of prison in my late '50s a broken, penniless and very much alone woman."

The notes were released by police Monday.

Palfrey, 52, hanged herself with a nylon rope Thursday in a shed outside her mother's mobile

community of Tarpon Springs, northwest of Tampa. Her mother, 76-year-old Blanche Palfrey, herself. Police said the notes discovered the body.

Deborah Palfrey was convict-

ed of running a prostitution service that catered to members of Washington's political elite, including Sen. David Vitter, a Louisiana Republican. She denied her escort service engaged in pros-

titution, saying that if any of the women engaged in sex acts for money, they did so without her knowledge.

She was free while she awaited sentencing on July 24 and had been staying with her mother.

Her suicide appeared to have

home in the Florida Gulf Coast been planned for days. The note to her mother was dated April 25, nearly a week before she killed were found on a night stand in the bedroom where she'd been

staying. One of the notes said, "Do not revive. Do not feed under any circumstances."

In the note to her younger sister, Bobbie, Palfrey expressed her love and told her to "be strong for mom."

"Also, you must comprehend that there was no other way out, i.e., 'exit strategy,' other than the one I have chosen here," she wrote. "Know I am at peace, with complete certainty, I believe Dad is standing watch—prepared to guide me into the light."



Asia



YANGON, Myanmar (AP) —Myanmar's official media said Tuesday that 10,000 people were killed by a powerful cyclone in just one town, confirming fears of a spiraling death toll from the storm's 12-foot tidal surges and high winds that swept away bamboo homes in low-lying coastal regions.

The ruling junta, an authoritarian regime which cut the nation off from the international community for decades, appealed for foreign aid to help in the recovery from Saturday's disaster, the country's deadliest storm on record.

The casualty count has been rising quickly as authorities reach hard-hit islands and villages in the Irrawaddy delta, the country's major rice-producing region, which bore the brunt of Cyclone Nargis's 120-mile-per hour winds.

Myanmar Foreign Minister told diplomats in Yangon Monday that more than 10,000 people may have died when Cyclone Nargis struck Saturday.

GENEVA (AP)-U.N. agencies and independent humanitarian groups rushed Monday to prepare assistance for victims of a devastating cyclone in Myanmar, while awaiting a formal go-ahead from the military regime in the Southeast Asian nation.

As the death toll climbed, Myanmar's isolationist government indicated a willingness to accept outside help. But details on how aid would

be delivered were still to be worked out, said Elisabeth Byrs of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

"The U.N. team has been activated and is ready to supplement the effort of the government in responding to this disaster as soon as they receive visas," Byrs said.

Some potential donors said governments and aid groups apparently would need individual approval to deliver supplies to Myanmar, which is also known as Burma.

The United States said the junta had so far refused to allow an American disaster team in to assess damage to follow up on an emergency U.S. contribution of \$250,000.

"That is a barrier to us being able to move forward," deputy **State Department spokesman** Tom Casey said. "We asked for permission, but the initial response from the government was that they were not inclined to let them in."

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, in announcing he was making \$773,000 available to German aid groups to help Myanmar, urged the military government "to allow an effective aid operation and to work together with international aid organizations."

On Tuesday, state television confirmed fears of a rapidly rising toll, reporting that 10,000 perished in the town of Bogalay and raising concern that the country's overall death toll will rise significantly.

Residents of Yangon, the former capital of 6.5 million, said they were angry the government failed to adequately warn them of the approaching storm and has so far done little to alleviate their plight.

"The government misled people. They could have warned us about the severity of the coming cyclone so we could be better prepared," said Thin Thin, a grocery store owner.

Some in Yangon complained the 400,000-strong military was only clearing streets where the ruling elite resided, while leaving residents, including Buddhist monks, to cope on their own against the huge tangles of uprooted trees.

"There are some army trucks out to clear the roads, but most of the work was done with a dah (knife) by the people. Some of these tree trunks are 4-feet thick," said Barry Broman, a retired U.S. State Department officer who was in Yangon when the cyclone struck. "Thousands of trees were uprooted. All the roads were blocked by the trees."

The death toll would be the highest from a natural disaster in southeast Asia since the tsunami of December 2004, which killed 229,866 people as it devastated coastlines in Indonesia, Thailand and other parts of southeast and south Asia. In the wake of the tsunami, an extensive early warning system was established in the Pacific region.

ASIAN BRIEFS

More talks ahead for China,

SHENZHEN, China (AP)—The Dalai Lama's representatives left China on Monday with a solid offer from Beijing for future talks, marking a small step toward expanding dialogue between the two sides following anti-government riots in Tibet. Prime Minister Samdhong Rinpoche of the India-based Tibetan government-in-exile said the two sides had agreed to meet again following daylong discussions conducted in a "good atmosphere" Sunday in the southern city of Shenzhen. Both China's state broadcaster and the official Xinhua News Agency confirmed a second round of talks had been agreed on.

Philippine inflation hits 3-year high at 8.3 percent

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Inflation in the Philippines surged to its highest level in nearly three years in April, driven largely by higher food prices, according to data released Tuesday. The shawar. Khan said the bomber struck a checkpoint Anhui, Guangdong, Zhejiang, and the capital Bei-National Statistics Office reported the consumer price index rose 8.3 percent from a year ago, the biggest gain since May 2005, when it rose 8.5 percent. The April inflation rate was an acceleration from the 6.4 percent rise in the price index in March. Average inflation in the first four months of the year was 6.2 percent, exceeding the central bank's target range of between 3 percent and 5 percent for the year.

Pakistani police say suicide bomber kills 2

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Police say a suicide bomber has killed one police officer and a civilian at a checkpoint in Pakistan's troubled northwest. The attack follows signs that peace talks initiated by Pakistan's new government have snagged. Militants are demanding that the army withdraw from their strongholds along the Afghan border. Mohammed Khan is a police official in the regional capital, Peon the edge of the military district in the town of jing. All were below the age of 6 and the majority Bannu on Tuesday morning. Khan said another five people were wounded in the blast.

China: Hand, foot and mouth spreading

BEIJING (AP)—China reported a jump Monday in the number of children sickened with hand, foot and mouth disease, saying more than 11,900 cases have been reported. At least 24 deaths in the central province of Anhui and Guangdong province in the south have been blamed on enterovirus 71, one of several viruses that cause the disease, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Two other children one in Guangdong and another in the coastal province of Zhejiang-have also died of hand, foot and mouth disease but it wasn't immediately clear which strain of virus killed them, it said. Xinhua said 10,212 children had been reported infected in the hardest-hit areas, including the provinces of were under the age of 2, it said.

Indonesia extradites 4 suspects in East Timor plot

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia extradited four rebel soldiers suspected in the attempted assassinations of East Timor's president and prime minister, the police chief said Monday. The East Timorese men, who were detained after illegally crossing the border last month, were flown to the capital. Dili, where they will face trial in the Feb. 11 shootings, said Gen. Sutanto, who like many Indonesians goes by a single name. They face up to 25 years in prison if convicted. President Jose Ramos-Horta almost died after being shot by men led by rebel commander Alfredo Reinado, who was killed in a shootout with guards. Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao escaped unharmed from an ambush on his motorcade the same day.

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World

Manhunt on for pedophile suspect

LYON, France (AP)-Interpol launched a worldwide appeal to the public Tuesday to help identify a man suspected of sexually abusing young boys from Southeast Asia—hoping the rare move will lead to a quick arrest.

It was only the second time that the international police agency has appealed directly to the public for help in identifying a suspected pedophile. An arrest was made shortly after the first time last October.

The suspect in the latest case is a white man, shown with gray, thinning hair in photos released by Interpol. He appeared to be in his late 40s or early 50s in the images.

Interpol said that despite two years of investigations, it and other police agencies have been unable to determine his identity, nationality or whereabouts - hence the decision to appeal publicly for information.

"The law enforcement community around the world has done all it can to find this man who clearly presents a danger to young children, and we are now asking the public to help identify this predator and protect other potential victims from abuse," Interpol Secretary General Ronald Noble said in a statement.

Diaries show Saddam feared getting AIDS in prison

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Saddam Hussein feared catching AIDS or other diseases during his U.S.-supervised captivity, a leading Arab newspaper said Monday in publishing excerpts of his prison writings.

The London-based Al-Hayat

said the

comments

came in

portions of

Saddam's

authori-



prison diaries that it obtained from U.S. Hussein

ties. The U.S. military confirmed some of the late Iraqi leader's writings had been released.

When Saddam found out his U.S. military guards were also using his laundry line to dry clothes, he wrote that he demanded they stop, according to the excerpts.

Troops fire into Somali food riot, 2 killed

(AP)—Troops fired into tens of thousands of rioting Somalis on Monday, killing two people in the latest eruption of violence over soaring food prices around the world.

Wielding thick sticks and hurling stones that smashed the windshields of several cars and buses, the rioters jammed the narrow streets of the Somali capital, screaming, "Down with those suffocating us!"

In Mogadishu, protesters including women and children marched against the refusal of traders to accept old 1,000-shilling notes, blaming them and a growing number of counterfeiters for rising food costs.

Within an hour, a reporter for The Associated Press watched their ranks swell to tens of thousands, and the riot spread to all 13 districts of the capital. Some threw rocks at shops and chaos erupted at the capital's main Bakara market.

Hundreds of shops and restaurants in southern Mogadishu closed for fear of looting. At least four other people were wounded in the violence, witnesses said

The price of rice and other staples has risen more than 40 percent since mid-2007, leading to protests and riots in other nations, including Haiti, Egypt, Cameroon and Burkina Faso.

The Asian Development Bank said Monday that a billion poor people in Asia need food aid to help cope with the skyrocketing prices. And the president of Senegal said the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization should be disman-



Somali's demonstrate against high food prices, Monday, May 5, 2008 in the capital Mogadishu.

tled, calling it a "money pit" and blaming it for the food crisis.

Soaring fuel prices, growing demand from the burgeoning middle classes in India and China and poor weather have contributed to a jump in food prices worldwide. Africa has been particularly hard-hit.

In Mogadishu, the price of corn meal has more than doubled since January. Rice has risen during the same period from \$26 to \$47.50 for a 110pound sack.

The cost of food has also been

driven up by the plummeting Somali shilling, which has lost nearly half its value against the U.S. dollar this year because of growing insecurity and a market clogged with millions of counterfeit notes. The shilling has tumbled from about 17,000 per U.S. dollar to about 30,000.

"First we have been killed with bullets, now they are killing us with hunger," said protester Halima Omar Hassan, a porter who hefts goods for people on her back. At the riot Monday, witnesses said troops opened fire in at least two areas of the capital, though most soldiers were firing into the air.

One man shot by the troops died on the way to an operating room at the capital's main hospital, Dr. Dahir Dhere said.

And Abdinur Farah, a protester, said his uncle was hit when government troops opened fire and died before he could reach a hospital.

"He was just peacefully expressing his feelings," said Farah, who was marching with his uncle, his uncle's two wives

and his uncle's six children. "It is saddening that the very government which is supposed to support him, killed him."

Somalia has been without a functioning government since the 1991 overthrow of dictator Siad Barre.

Over the past year, thousands of civilians have been killed and hundreds of thousands forced from homes in fighting pitting Islamist insurgents against a U.N-sponsored transitional government supported by troops from neighboring Ethiopia.

3 dead infants found in freezer in Germany, mother is arrested

OLPE, Germany (AP)—A 44-year-old woman was arrested on suspicion of killing three of her babies after their bodies were discovered in the family freezer by her grown children looking for pizza, police said Monday.

Police confirmed the grisly find Sunday night in the town of Wenden, near Olpe, in the western state of North Rhine-Westphalia after the woman turned herself in, officials said.

The three infants are believed to have been born alive, but authorities were awaiting autopsy results to determine how they died, said Johannes Daheim, a spokesman for prosecutors investigating the case.

The woman, her 47-year-old husband and three adult children-two sons, aged 18 and 22, and a 24-year-old daughter —have lived in the town in a single-family home since 1984.

The children discovered the frozen babies on Saturday afternoon while their parents were away for the weekend, investigator Martin Feldmann said.

The 18-year-old and his sister had been looking for a frozen pizza and came across a lot of expired food so decided to clean

The teenager then found three identical packets on the bottom of the freezer and opened one and saw the head and arm of an infant that was wrapped in a hand towel, police said.

The children confronted their parents when they returned home Sunday, and the couple and their daughter then went to police together to tell authorities, said Herbert Fingerhut, head of the police investigation, at a news conference.

Iran calls off talks with US about Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iran called off further Iraq security talks with Washington until U.S. forces stop their crackdown on Shiite militias, but the military brought more air power into the fight Monday and escalated its accusations of Iranian backing for extremists.

The latest flare-up has put Iraq's government in a bind as it seeks to stamp out armed Shiite gangs but worries about angering Shiite heavyweight Iran, which has close ties to the core of Iraq's political leadership.

Washington has long accused Iran of arming and training some Shiite militia factions. The accusations were sharpened Monday as the military said detainees described being trained at bases outside Tehran by militants from Hezbollah, an Iranian-aided faction based in Lebanon.

Iraq's Shiite-led government said battles against militias would continue even if Iran pulled out of the security talks. Three rounds have been held at

the ambassador level since May and marked rare direct diplomatic contact between the two nations, which have had no formal relations since shortly after Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

There are also worries that Sunni extremists are regrouping. Attacks blamed on al-Qaida in Iraq have claimed dozens of lives in recent days, including an attack Monday that killed at least 10 Iraqi soldiers and wounded 13 at a checkpoint in Diyala province northeast of Baghdad, the U.S. military said.

In Tehran, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohamcould not be held under current conditions.

"What we are witnessing is open and extensive bombing of the Iraqi nation, while the main goal of talks with the American side would have been security and peace in Iraq," Hosseini said. "It is a matter of doubt that the U.S. is pursuing a solution for the crisis, which was

caused by them."

In Baghdad's Sadr City, a Shiite slum where 2.5 million people live, U.S. and Iraqi force have been under sustained attacks by militias including members of the powerful Mahdi Army led by anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

Hundreds of people have been killed in Baghdad and the southern city of Basra since late March when Iraq's prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, launched an offensive against Shiite militias and so-called "special groups" with suspected ties to Iran.

On Monday, the U.S. Air mad Ali Hosseini said talks Force unleashed one of its most potent weapons, the AC-130 gunship, against Shiite extremists in Baghdad. The U.S. military said it killed at least nine militants in clashes since Sunday.

> The turboprop AC-130—a variant of the C-130 Hercules transport plane—can be outfitted with Gatling guns and howtizers.

Campus Life

Colleges are allowing coed dorm rooms

By MICHELLE R. SMITH ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Erik Youngdahl and Michelle Garcia share a dorm room at Connecticut's Wesleyan University. But they say there's no funny business going on. Really. They mean it.

They have set up their beds side-by-side like Lucy and Ricky in "I Love Lucy," and avert their eyes when one of them is changing clothes.

"People are shocked to hear that it's happening and even that it's possible," said Youngdahl, a 20year-old sophomore. But "once you actually live in it, it doesn't actually turn into a big deal."

In the prim 1950s, college dorms were off-limits to members of the opposite sex. Then came the 1970s, when male and female students started crossing paths in coed dormitories. Now, to the astonishment of some Baby Boomer parents, a growing number of colleges are going even further: coed rooms.

At least two dozen schools, including Brown University, the University of Pennsylvania, Oberlin College, Clark University and the California Institute of Technology, allow some or all students to share a room with anyone they choose—including someone of the opposite sex. This spring, as students sign up for next year's room, more schools are following suit, including Stanford University.



Roommates Michelle Garcia, left, and Erik Youngdahl pose in the room they share in a house for students with an interest in Russian studies at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn., Thursday, April 24, 2008. Garcia and Youngdahl share a room because they realized they made the best fit compared to their other roommate options.

As shocking as it sounds to some parents, some students and schools say it's not about sex.

Instead, they say the demand is mostly from heterosexual students who want to live with close friends who happen to be of the opposite sex. Some gay students who feel more comfortable rooming with someone of the opposite sex are also taking advantage of the option.

"It ultimately comes down to

finding someone that you feel is compatible with you," said Jeffrey Chang, a junior at Clark in Worcester, Mass., who cofounded the National Student Genderblind Campaign, a group that is pushing for gender-neutral housing. "Students aren't doing this to make a point. They're not doing this to upset their parents. It's really for practical reasons."

Couples do sometimes room together, an arrangement known

at some schools as "roomcest." Brown explicitly discourages couples from living together on campus, be they gay or straight. But the University of California, Riverside has never had a problem with a roommate couple breaking up midyear, said James C. Smith, assistant director for residence life.

Most schools introduced the couples option in the past three or four years. So far, relatively

few students are taking part. At the University of Pennsylvania, which began offering coed rooms in 2005, about 120 out of 10,400 students took advantage of the option this year.

At UC Riverside, which has approximately 6,000 students in campus housing, about 50 have roommates of the opposite sex. The school has had the option since 2005.

Garcia and Youngdahl live

in a house for students with an interest in Russian studies. They said they were already friendly, and didn't think they would be compatible with some of the other people in the house.

"I had just roomed with a boy. I was under the impression at the time that girls were a little bit neater and more quiet," Youngdahl said. "As it turns out, I don't see much of a difference from one sex to the other."

Garcia, 19, admitted: "I'm incredibly messy."

Parents aren't necessarily thrilled with boy-girl housing.

Debbie Feldman's 20-yearold daughter, Samantha, is a sophomore at Oberlin in Ohio and plans to room with her platonic friend Grey Caspro, a straight guy, next year. Feldman said she was shocked when her daughter told her.

"When you have a male and female sharing such close quarters, I think it's somewhat delusional to think there won't be sexual tension," the 52-year-old Feldman said. "Maybe this generation feels more comfortable walking around in their underwear. I'm not sure that's a good thing."

Still, Feldman said her daughter is partly in college to learn life lessons, and it's her decision. Samantha said she assured her mom she thinks of Caspro as a brother.

"I'm really close to him, and I consider him one of my really good friends," she said. "I really trust him. That trust makes it work."

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. (AP)—Wilkes University badly wanted 18-year-old Nicole Pollock to be part of its freshman class this fall—so much so that it made her the star of her own ad campaign.

The small, private school in northeastern Pennsylvania plastered Pollock's name on billboards, pizza boxes and gas pumps—and even aired a commercial on MTV—in hopes of getting her to enroll. As one message put it: "We just hope you're on your way to Wilkes University next year."

Mission accomplished: Pollock recently picked Wilkes over her hometown University of Scranton. Even better for Wilkes, the ads put it on the radar screen of many of Pollock's college-bound classmates.

The quirky \$120,000 ad campaign, which also featured seven other students, helps Wilkes stand out in a crowded college marketplace. It also demonstrates the lengths to which some colleges are going to reach today's media- and marketing-savvy teenagers, who are just as likely to shop for a school on the Internet as to rely on glossy brochures and college fairs.

Increasingly, schools are using podcasts, virtual tours on YouTube, live chats and other

Pennsylvania college woos prospective students by putting them in ads

interactive technologies to get their messages out.

Wilkes' ads, now in their second year, are focused on the university's traditional recruiting area in northeastern Pennsylvania, as well as the Allentown-Bethlehem region to the south, and the Philadelphia suburbs, Long Island and Binghamton, N.Y.

The school finds out this week just how successful its campaign has been. Thursday is "decision day," the deadline for high school seniors across the nation to notify the college of their choice they plan to attend in the fall.

"This is pretty trendsetting and forward-thinking," said Nancy Costopulos, chief marketing officer of the American Marketing Association, which runs a yearly symposium for colleges and universities. "It positions Wilkes as an innovative and fresh kind of school."

The university picks applicants from markets where Wilkes wants to promote itself and who have a "mix of talents and determination," said Jack Chielli, Wilkes' director of marketing. Applicants featured in the ads must consent to have their names used.



Briana Turnbaugh poses for a photograph with a billboard with her name, placed by Wilkes University as a recruitment tool, in Hazleton, Pa., Sunday, April 20, 2008.

The ads are the brainchild of Philadelphia marketing firm 160 over 90, which had a mandate from Wilkes to convey the message that the school gets to know its students personally and pays close attention to their needs.

To do that, the agency conducts in-depth interviews with participating students, their friends and families—learning their hobbies and accomplishments, their hopes and dreams, their likes and

dislikes, even their nicknames.

It uses the information to design highly personalized ads that are placed where students are most likely to see them: on pizza boxes and billboards, atop gas pumps, in movie theaters and malls, and on MTV, VHI and Comedy Central.

Some examples:

"Lake Lehman senior Greg Heindel: "You give your time at the soup kitchen, the firehouse, and your church summer camp. Wilkes University would like to give you something—a top-quality education."

"Hey Kristen Pecka. Only your closest friends at Central Catholic call you Pecka-leckalecka. Choose Wilkes University and add 2,362 more people to that list."

■ "Scranton High senior Nicole Pollock: Our goal at Wilkes University is to be as much a mentor as your mother has been. (Now, if we could only make her ravioli.)"

That last one, on a billboard close to Pollock's high school, made her mother cry.

Each ad also includes an invitation to "call a Colonel"—the school's nickname—and provides a phone number that plays a recorded message from a Wilkes student.

The marketing campaign appeals to what Costopulos calls the "look-at-me generation"—teens who grew up with social networking sites like Facebook and MySpace and are comfortable sharing their most private thoughts with the world.

Indeed, the ads have turned students into mini-celebrities in their schools and communities.

Briana Turnbaugh, 17, of Sugarloaf, Pa., said that when she went to a doctor's office for the first time, the receptionist said: "Oh, you're the girl from the billboard!"

Turnbaugh, who ranks fifth in her high school class of 800, ultimately picked Wilkes' crosstown rival, King's College. But she said Wilkes still spent its money wisely.

"I know so many people, seniors, who were impressed with (the ad campaign) and decided they wanted to go there or at least consider it," Turnbaugh said.

Chielli, the marketing director, said the recruits' choices are almost secondary. As long as the ads get students thinking about Wilkes, they are working.

Wilkes charges fees and tuition of more than \$25,000, and nearly all students get some form of financial aid not including loans. The school hands out \$22 million in aid each year.

For Megan Smith, who had been leaning heavily toward another university before getting the star treatment last year, the ad campaign put Wilkes in a new light.

"They were interested in me and what I wanted from my college experience," said Smith, who is now wrapping up her freshman year at Wilkes.

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Life & Style

Britney Spears expected in court for custody hearing

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Exactly three months have passed since Britney Spears slipped away from a psychiatric ward and promptly stirred up a paparazzi car chase, a scene that looked like the beginning of even more erratic behavior for the troubled pop star.

In the weeks that followed, Spears started acting out of character, all right: She laid low and avoided the cameras. She spent time with family members. She found work, and succeeded at it.

With that stability and momentum to build on, it would appear Spears' child-custody hearing Tuesday has the potential for a positive outcome - as long as she gets it together to show up this time. All indications are that she will.

The troubled 26-year-old pop star, who has been under the conservatorship of her father since her one-week-early release from UCLA Medical Center, is expected to attend the custody status hearing in a downtown courthouse with her parents. Her ex-husband, Kevin Federline, will also attend, said his spokesman, Elliot Mintz.

Federline has had full custody of his two sons by Spears, 2-year-old Sean Preston and 1-year-old Jayden James, since January, when police were called to Spears' home after she refused to relinquish one of the boys to a Federline bodyguard. Spears was taken by ambulance to a hospital after the incident. Her visitation rights were suspended at the time, but have been gradually restored in recent months.

Tuesday's hearing will include discussion of a psychiatrist's evaluation of Spears, a person close to the case told The Associated Press. The perber during a universally panned

son was not authorized to speak publicly about the case and requested anonymity.

Commissioner Scott Gordon, who will preside over the hearing, could modify the couple's visitation agreement Tuesday based on Spears' recent conduct, the person said.

Spears was a constant media presence before the conservatorship took effect. Photographers captured her every visit to Starbucks and gas stations around Los Angeles, and documented a bout of bizarre behavior that included appearing in public without underwear, shaving her own head and beating a car with an umbrella.

Since Spears' father, James, took over her affairs, the pop star has been relatively invisible to photographers, only occasionally snapped shopping or having dinner with her mother, Lynne. A traffic accident last month turned out to be a minor bumper-to-bumper incident in which no one was injured, and for which no one was cited.

Spears' public appearances have been limited to a well-received cameo on CBS' "How I Met Your Mother," a role she reprised during a taping last week, a CBS spokeswoman said. The episode is set to air May 12.

"We're thrilled to have Britney joining us once again," series executive producer and co-creator Craig Thomas said in a statement last month. The show's audience increased by a million viewers the week Spears appeared.

The pop star also made news last month when she took on full-time exercise and nutrition coaches from Bally Total Fitness. Once known for her flawless figure, Spears was widely ridiculed for her flabby form in Septem-

Harry Connick Jr. returns in 'Nice Work If You Can Get It'

NEW YORK (AP)—Harry Connick Jr. and the Gershwins, George and Ira—Broadway's newest trio.

The jazz pianistsinger will return to Broadway in spring 2009 in "Nice Work If You Can Get It," a new musical comedy using Gershwin standards, producer Scott Landis announced Monday.

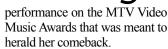
Connick will play a Long Island playboy in the show, which will feature a book by Joe DiPietro, one of the authors of "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change"; music by George Gershwin, and lyrics by Ira Gershwin. "Nice Work If You Can Get

> It" will play a pre-Broadway engagement at Boston's Colonial Theatre. The show will begin preview performances on Broadway in February at a theater

open in March. Other casting will be announced later.

to be announced and

Kathleen Marshall will direct and choreograph. Marshall and Connick last worked together in the Tony-winning revival of "The Pajama Game" in 2006.



Spears has been elusive at recent court hearings, her every anticipated appearance drawing a circus of media and paparazzi. In January, she arrived at the courthouse wearing cocktail-party attire—a black minidress and gold platform shoes—and left before the custody hearing began.



In this photo released by CBS, actors Neil Patrick Harris, left, as Barney and guest star Britney Spears as Abby appear in a scene from "How I Met Your Mother."

In Celebration of Her New Life

†Marcella Lieto

Norita Camacho

Lovingly known as Marcy or Te' Born: October 01, 1945 Was born to eternal life on Friday, May 02, 2008

She now joins her:

Husband: † Vicente Tudela Camacho "Ben Dinga"

Parents: † Julian (Felipe) Norita & † Consolacion Lieto Norita

Brother: † Joseph Lieto Norita

In Laws: † Carlos Evangelista, † Santiago T. & † Josepha M.

Camacho, † Froilan T. Camacho

Marcy will now forever live in the hearts and memories of her:

Mother

• Julia K. Norita

Children:

• Joseph A. & Doreen M. Tudela (Joseph Lance, Desiree Briana)

- Claudio "Clyde" K. & Jenny C. Norita (Cody Julian & Tracy, Vicky Jean, Maegan Julia, Ashley Ann, Chase Joshua)
- Joseph James N. Camacho & Viola Alepuyo (Ulen Joseph Vicente)
- Kenneth N. & Tina A. Camacho (Marlee Nicole & Ruben (Kashius), Felisha Marie, Courtney Margaret, Vincent Ken, Kenneth II "KC")
- Isidoru N. & Melissa M. Camacho
- George N. Camacho & Susana Quitano (Kuino Benbar, Heath Quinten)
- · Lareyna "Loling" N. Camacho & Clifford Q. Nekai
- Vincent N. Camacho Jr.

Brother: The family of the late Joseph L. Norita Jesus "Larry" L. & Rose Q. Norita & Family Sister: Ramona N. Evangelista & Family Sis: Remy N. Repeki & Family, Esperanza R. Taitano & Family

Caretaker: Joy L. Amarante

In-Laws

The family of the late Santiago T. & † Josepha M. Camacho & Family David T. & Rosa A. Camacho & Family Andres T. & Aida Camacho & Family Andrea T. Cabrera & Family The family of the late Froilan T. Camacho Anunciacion "Asako" & † Miguel Magofna & Family

She is additionally survived by numerous family and friends.

Daily Mass is being offered at 6:00 am, at Kristo Rai Church (Garapan). Nightly Rosary is being said at 7:30 pm, at Santa Remedios Church (Tanapag). Last respects will be paid on Saturday, May 10, 2008. Our beloved Marcy will be escorted from the Cabrera Center at 7 a.m. to Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag followed by Responso and Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase for your Prayers and Thoughts from the Family.





Connick

Uma Thurman stalker case goes to jury

rity-obsessed loner "terrified" Uma Thurman by flooding her with phone calls and e-mails, ringing her doorbell at all hours and threatening to kill himself if he couldn't meet her, a prosecutor said Monday in closing arguments.

"This isn't about love for Uma Thurman," Assistant District Attorney Jessica Taub told jurors. "This is about self-absorption."

Jack Jordan, 37, is on trial in state Supreme Court in Manhattan on charges of stalking and aggravated harassment; he faces up to a year in jail if convicted. Jurors began deliberations Monday afternoon before leaving for the day. They were expected to resume Tuesday morning.

Defense lawyer George Vomvolakis conceded in his closing argument that Jordan's behavior was obsessive, but said his client did not have criminal intent to scare or harass the "Kill Bill" and "Pulp Fiction" actress.

"He's trying to get to the woman he loves—although it's an obsession—in the hope that she will love him back," Vomvolakis said. "Jack Jordan is not charged with obsession. Obsession is not a crime."

Vomvolakis also complained that the case went to trial only because a celebrity was in-

But Taub countered by saying that Jordan's actions indicated



Jack Jordan exits Manhattan criminal court during a recess in his trial, Friday, May 2, 2008, in New York.

his intent to hound or harass anyone who stood in his way because "he wanted to be with Uma Thurman and he would not take no for an answer."

"The defendant drove through every single stop sign that was in his path," the prosecutor said.

She said he tried to emotion-

ally blackmail Thurman and her family by threatening to kill himself; harassed her by ringing her doorbell at all hours of the day and night; and stuffed letters into her mailbox or left them on her movie set - but was thwarted numerous times by her relatives and her staff.

she said.

Last Thursday, Thurman testified about a card Jordan delivered to her trailer in Manhattan's SoHo section, where she was filming "My Super Ex-Girlfriend."

It bore a drawing of an open grave, a headstone and a man standing on the edge of a razor blade. A spiral of random words referred to "chocolate, mouth, soft, kissing" and declared, "My hands should be on your body at all times."

"I was completely freaked out," the 38-year-old actress said of the drawing, which was on a religious confirmation card. "It was almost like a nightmare. It was scary."

Taub said a card like that from a stranger amounts to harassment.

"This is not 'roses are red, violets are blue," the prosecutor said. "This is not an innocuous little love note."

Prosecutors say Jordan began stalking Thurman in 2005 and, following the incident with the confirmation card, was involuntarily committed to a mental institution. When he got out, prosecutors say he started showing up at the front doorstep of her Greenwich Village town house.

Jordan, who lives with his parents in Gaithersburg, Md., is an out-of-work lifeguard who was living in his car at the time of his arrest last year.

Roberts declares 'Wright-free zone' for Obama's interview

NEW YORK (AP)—CNN's John Roberts declared his interview with Barack Obama on Monday a "Rev. Wright-free zone" to telegraph he wouldn't ask the Democratic presidential contender about the controversy over his former pastor.

The reference was flip, but Roberts primarily talked about Iran, the gas tax and the economy during a six-minute interview with Obama that aired at 6:20 a.m. EDT.

During appearances last week at the National Press Club and elsewhere, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright repeated his beliefs that the U.S. government may have developed the AIDS virus to infect the black community and that the U.S. had invited the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Obama denounced the remarks.

The first 11 questions that NBC's Tim Russert asked Obama on "Meet the Press" on Sunday were about the Wright matter.

"Everyone has to make their own decisions," Russert told The Associated Press in an interview. "I don't take questions off the table. I was just in Indiana and I assure you, everywhere I went, people came up to me and asked me about it."

Roberts said it was clear that nothing new had been said about the issue for a week, and that many of his viewers believed it was time for CNN to move on.

"Rather than spend one second of time on an issue that isn't really relevant to people because there's been no news on it, I thought I'd spend the time talking to these candidates about issues that really matter to people," he said.

Roberts, co-host of CNN's morning program, interviewed Hillary Clinton an hour after talking to Obama. He didn't ask her about Wright, either.

The veteran anchor said he made the decision on his own, and has since received about 100 e-mails, all overwhelmingly positive, about it.

The declaration of a "Wright-free zone" wasn't done to telegraph to Obama that he was going easy on him, Roberts said. Rather, he was trying to tell viewers it was going to be a substantive interview, he said.

"All of the questions that are currently out there on this have been asked and answered," he said.

It doesn't mean he's closing the book on the issue, Roberts said. If Obama becomes the Democratic nominee and Republicans criticize his relationship to Wright, he'll likely return to it, he said.

Tracking aliens, love and life since the '90s

By GEOFF BOUCHER

HOLLYWOOD—The cast and crew of the upcoming "The X-Files: I Want to Believe" were just a few weeks into filming in Vancouver, British Columbia, when Frank Spotnitz, the co-writer and co-producer with creator-director Chris Carter, called star David Duchovny over to a laptop computer to watch a fan-made video on YouTube. It was a montage of scenes from the old "X-Files" show set to Sarah McLachlan's forlorn "When She Loved Me."

"It was intensely romantic, and it almost brought tears to my eyes," Duchovny recalled. "It really did. And it reminded me that we have at the core of 'The X-Files' this very powerful relationship. We have to honor that and not shy away from the sentimentality of the fans or of the relationship itself. When we were doing the show. Gillian (Anderson) and I had got tired of it. And we wanted to be ourselves outside of it. I remember struggling. But now I think, 'God, what a great love affair.' "

Those are healing words for the intensely devoted fans of the television series that became a pop-culture phenomenon in the 1990s and made Duchovny's Fox Mulder and Anderson's Dana Scully a sort of Tracy and Hepburn, albeit with alien autopsies. The show debuted in 1992, peaked with audiences in its fifth season but ran out of

gas in 2002. On July 25, the flashlights come out again, and FBI agents Mulder and Scully will restart their spooky romantic tango.

The plot of the film has been intensely guarded and, sitting in a coffee shop in Santa Monica, Duchovny carefully sidestepped questions about the story cooked up by Carter and Spotnitz. "You can ask, but my job is to not answer," said the lean 47-year-old who this year picked up a Golden Globe for his work in "Californication" on Showtime.

Duchovny did confirm that "I Want to Believe" will be in the tradition of the "stand-alone" episodes of the old series, meaning it's not part of the long, complicated story arc concerning a shadow government and alien life; this will be more of a "horror and suspense movie, the creepy stuff as procedural," that finds the agents more on Scooby-Doo duty rather than in Oliver Stone

A good portion of the movie was filmed in Whistler, the alpine skiing hub in Canada's Coast Mountains, and the intense snow on screen is majestic and unsettling as the agents chase their

"It's not a James Bond film," Duchovny said with a wry smile. "We're not chasing a guy on a snowboard. Not that that wouldn't have been cool. But it's not that. I'm lobbying already to make the next one in Hawaii. It's not going so well. But the snow looks amazing. The



flashlights in the snow look great." The franchise hit the silver screen

in 1998 with "The X-Files: Fight the Future," and a sequel was expected in 2001 but legal quarrels between Carter and 20th Century Fox delayed the process, and then script and scheduling issues hampered the process further. The film will acknowledge the time passage and even have a bit of fun with it, such as a scene early on in which Mulder and Scully, in a corridor at FBI headquarters, both glance purposely at the

portrait of President Bush on the wall; the Clinton photographs from the 1990s are long gone.

"It's not like other science-fiction shows where time is frozen or vou're in an unfamiliar world." he said. "You've got to make these actual people who have aged and changed. For me, I thought I could kind of slip back into the character pretty easily, but early on in filming I found myself wondering whether I had done enough work. It was more of a challenge than I expected."

What helped? "Working with Gillian again and that rhythm between us, that was probably the easiest thing and very helpful for me. It was key for me to get back to Mulder and nice we didn't have to kind of play it up or emphasize it or exaggerate it. I really didn't do any research, per se. I have seen the show over the past six years. Usually when I can't sleep and I turn on the TV and it's there. I do watch it for a few minutes and it's nice now. It's like home movies. But with autopsies."



Creator of 'Hazel' comic dies at 95

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Cartoonist Ted Key, whose comic strip "Hazel" about a bossy maid went from magazine page to TV screen, has died. He was 95.

He died Saturday at his home in the Philadelphia suburb of Tredyffrin Township after a 1 1/2-year battle with cancer, his son Peter Key said Monday.

"Hazel" was a popular feature in The Saturday Evening Post from the time it debuted in 1943. It evolved into a prime-time series in 1961 that starred Shirley Booth and ran for four years on NBC and one year on CBS.

Key also created the characters Mr. Peabody and Sherman for producer Jay Ward. The time-traveling dog/scientist and his boy made their TV debuts in 1959 in segments on the animated show "Rocky and His Friends."

He created cartoon panels called "Diz and Liz" for the Jack and Jill children's magazine and produced a number of other animal characters. He also wrote a play for radio, authored and illustrated books, and had freelance cartoons appear in Cosmopolitan, Better Homes and Gardens and Sports Illustrated.

Key literally dreamed up the concept of his wildly popular maid cartoon.

'Project Runway' may leave Bravo

NEW YORK (AP)—"Project Runway" may switch from Bravo to the Lifetime cable network this fall, but NBC Universal ensured Monday that the show's producers won't go with it.

NBC Universal, whose properties include Bravo, USA and Oxygen, announced a deal that ties it to producers Dan Cutforth and Jane Lipsitz, giving the company first look at their projects. In effect, it forced the duo to choose between staying with "Project Runway" or the promise of more work at NBC.

Lifetime last month announced it had agreed on a \$150 million deal with the Weinstein Co., owners of "Project Runway," to televise five seasons of the cable hit starting in February. NBC Universal has tried to block that move in court.

Cutforth and Lipsitz, who call their production company Magical Elves, acknowledged their tough call.

"This was kind of a cross-roads," Cutforth said. "It was a difficult decision to leave a show that to a large degree made our name and has been a big part of our company for a long time. But it really did seem like this was the right time to part ways."

'Sex and the City' director addresses rumor of death

NEW YORK (AP)—Will "Sex and the City" have a "Death in the City?" It's been a persistent rumor in cyberspace as the buzz kicks into overdrive for the film opening later this month.

If you want the rumor to remain in play, stop reading now.

But director Michael Patrick King is ready to free us from some of our worst fears. Namely, that Mr. Big, Carrie Bradshaw's longtime, on-and-off love played by Chris Noth, will somehow kick the bucket.

"Kill Mr. Big? I would have been chased around the planet by women with torches," said King, who also wrote the film and produced it along with its star, Sarah Jessica Parker.

Actually, the idea of a Mr. Big death was pitched to King early on, the director said in an interview. And it's true, he was aiming for some edge and pathos and melodrama in his script.

Just not THAT much edge, pathos or melodrama.

"I did want an emotional roller-coaster," King said. "But my ultimate target was to make our 'girlfriends'—in other words, our audience—happy. And I don't think Mr. Big dying would make them happy."

The death rumor has led to some naughty speculation. One of the naughtiest: New York Magazine suggested that Charlotte, the pretty and perky Park Avenue socialite, could be killed



In this image released by New Line Cinema, Chris Noth stars as Mr. Big, left, and Sarah Jessica Parker stars as Carrie Bradshaw in New Line Cinema's "Sex in the City".

in a freak tennis accident.

So does anybody die? No plot spoilers here. But King, whose movie opens in late May, offered this answer.

"It's a summer movie," he said. "Why would I want to kill anyone?"

Cab driver returns \$4M violin

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—A violin virtuoso plans to replace the airport cacophony of taxis and airplanes with the exquisite tones of a 285-year-old violin to give thanks to the cab driver who reunited him with the lost instrument.

Grammy-nominated violinist Philippe Quint said Monday he will play a private 30-minute performance on Tuesday at Newark Liberty International Airport's cab waiting area.

Mohamed Khalil and his family will also have tickets to Quint's next New York performance, Sept. 23 at Carnegie Hall.

The irreplaceable 1723 Antonio Stradivari "Ex-Kiesewetter" was left in Khalil's cab the morning of April 21, when Quint was returning from a performance in Dallas. Quint found himself in the same predicament as other musicians, including cellist Yo-Yo Ma, who had left their instruments in cabs.

Adding to his distress: The violin valued at \$4 million was on loan from philanthropists Clement and Karen Arrison, of Buffalo, N.Y.

After calling 911 and the Port Sons. Quint, 34, is also a Authority of New York and New Jersey, Quint was soon in to become a U.S. citizen.

the offices of the Newark Taxi Commission viewing photographs of taxis.

Khalil had parked his cab for the night, not knowing that people were trying desperately to find it. After he got word the next morning, Khalil arranged to meet Quint again. Once reunited with the violin, the musician gave the driver \$100.

Khalil, 57, emigrated from Egypt in 1980 and became a U.S. citizen. He's been driving cabs for 24 years and is married with three sons. Quint, 34, is also an immigrant, having left Russia in 1991 to become a U.S. citizen.

Ex-Broadway producers plead not guilty to fraud

TORONTO (AP)—Two former Broadway producers pleaded not guilty Monday to participating in large-scale accounting fraud

Garth Drabinsky and Myron Gottlieb, co-founders of Livent, a major Broadway theater company in the 1990s that produced hit shows such as "Ragtime" and "Showboat," are charged with two counts of fraud and one count of forgery.

Their trial began Monday in Ontario Superior Court.

The Toronto-based company filed for bankruptcy protection after the alleged fraud was revealed when former Walt Disney Co. President Michael Ovitz invested in Livent.

Prosecutors allege the pair raised hundreds of millions in financing and that the fraud began even before Livent went public.

Drabinsky, Gottlieb and their lawyers declined to comment.

Prosecutor Robert Hubbard said he will call seven former Livent employees to testify that their former bosses falsified financial statements and had their accounting software modified to inflate income.

Hubbard said they hid production costs and inflated ticket sales to attract investors.

The prosecution's main wit-

ness is expected to be Gordon Eckstein, who was Livent's vice president of finance. He was given a conditional sentence after pleading guilty last year to one count of fraud.

Authorities allege that the manipulation of the books helped to build \$100 million shareholder value that was lost when the fraud was revealed by a new management team headed by Ovitz.

Drabinsky, 58, and Gottlieb, 64, were fired and Livent filed for bankruptcy protection in 1998.

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission called it a "pervasive eight-year fraudulent accounting scheme."

Grandma's term of endearment is not appropriate for toddler

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law—I'll call her "Irene"—refers to our 3-year-old daughter, "Amber," as "sexy." When she buys clothing for Amber, she will say, "This is sexy." When Amber was younger and would pull up her dress in play, Irene would say, "Are you trying to be sexy?" Luckily, when it has happened, Amber either didn't hear or remember her comments.



DearAbby

I'm afraid if we don't put a stop to it, Irene will continue saying these things. Maybe she thinks it's cute, but I would like to keep my little girl innocent as long as I can. My husband agrees with me, but he's afraid of offending his mother. Why would a grandmother call her young granddaughter "sexy"? Please advise.

—AMBER'S MOMMY IN CLEVELAND

DEAR MOMMY: Your mother-in-law may have a limited vocabulary, or she may be projecting her adult feelings onto Amber—not realizing that children her granddaughter's age do not experience sexual feelings the way adults do.

Whatever Irene's reasoning, I agree that her comments are inappropriate, and she should be told to cut them out. With marketing, advertising and media the way they are today, your little girl will be bombarded with promotional messages in which sex is a sales tool before she hits kindergarten. She doesn't need to be sexually objectified by her grandmother, too.

DEAR ABBY: "Frustrated in Colorado" (March 1) complained about people attempting to send faxes on her phone line. She should be thankful for a stable, busy job in a thriving business.

Most fax machines today scan documents into memory and put them into an automated "queue"—the same one that usually tries to transmit three times. I handle it by simply hitting the "transfer" button on my phone, so the call is routed to my fax line. Then I move on to other tasks. If you pass this on to her, it will relieve her frustration.

Tell her I said to "smile, have a nice day, and remember the words of Sgt. Joe Friday: 'It's just the fax, ma'am."

—LARRY FROM MARLTON, N.J.

DEAR LARRY: Thank you for the technical advice.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 17-year-old girl. My boyfriend and I are planning for a future together. We are seriously discussing marriage.

My problem is, when I was 14, my older brother molested me. I eventually found the courage to tell my parents. They confronted him, he apologized, and we all got on with our lives. We haven't spoken about it since.

Should I tell my boyfriend about this? It has affected my life. I have trouble trusting people, and I feel this is something he needs to know. However, my brother and I get along well now. I don't want my boyfriend wanting to hurt my brother every time we have a family function. What should I do?

—TROUBLED IN AUSTRALIA

DEAR TROUBLED: Although your brother has apologized and the subject hasn't been spoken about since, it has affected the way you perceive others. And the behavior your brother displayed when he molested you shows that—at least at that time in his life—he had a lack of empathy for the feelings of others, namely you.

You could benefit greatly by discussing what happened with a counselor who has expertise in sexual assault, and frankly, so could your brother. However, I see no reason to discuss what happened with your boyfriend until you become formally engaged, particularly because he might react in a volatile manner.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.Dear Abby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

I DON'T

THINK YOUR

DAD WILL WANT

TOMORROW

ARCHAEOLOGISTS HAVE THE MOST

MIND NUMBING JOB ON THE PLANET:

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DIG

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By Jim Davis



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The Duplex











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Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Amy Heckerling, 54; Robert Hegyes, 57; Tim Russert, 58: Bill Kreutzmann, 62

Happy Birthday: Keep your emotions in check and you will be able to take advantage of some very interesting personal and financial opportunities. Love and romance will reach new levels and must be one of your prime concerns this year. Dealing with older and younger people will be difficult but rewarding. Your numbers are 10, 14, 22, 39, 40, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Do whatever you can to feel good about life and who you are. A strong bond with a colleague or peer will bring you in contact with different ways of doing things. A lifestyle change may be in order. **OOOO**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will be tempted to want things too fast and this will lead to delays and problems. Don't rush into sharing your sentiments, especially if your emotions are soaring. Secrets may

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't pull the plug on something or cut someone off in a fit of anger or emotional stress. You will regret your actions and make yourself look bad in front of people who may judge you for future considerations.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A partnership may start out on the wrong foot but, if you are clear about what is expected of each of you, it will turn out favorably. Hard work and doing your best to help others will result in popularity and favors granted. •••



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your gift to others should be time and effort, not a monetary output. Take action to the heart of the problem. If a loved one opposes your time spent helping others, include him or her in the process. OOOO

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Consider starting a home-based business or getting into a new hobby. Don't let someone discourage you. He or she is jealous of your talents and fears your success may change the way you treat or feel about him or her. 🗪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Use your sophistication and your intelligence to find your niche. Something new and exciting will enable you to expand a concept you have wanted to develop for some time. Take baby steps and keep your costs down. •••••

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone you respect will tell you something that will change the way you think and do things. A partnership will be advantageous if you each stick to what you do best. Make creative changes at home to avoid problems with someone you live with.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You need to be motivated by something spectacular. Take a trip or join a group that

will stimulate and encourage you. Don't limit yourself. Your involvement now will lead to bigger and better things in the future. **OOO**

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can tie up loose ends and close deals if you make alterations to the way you han-



THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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dle the people you deal with. Take a lead position to showcase your capabilities and strengths. Investments, real estate and personal issues can all be dealt with successfully.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can expect to have some issues with neighbors, friends or relatives today, if you don't do what you have promised. Stick around home and sort out what needs to be done and the most efficient way to accomplish it. A great idea will please everyone.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Embellishment may appear to be an easy out for you. However, you will have to an-

swer questions that will prove you to be wrong in your assessment. Don't play the role of knowing everything if you don't. Focus on work, love and keeping the peace. ❖❖

Birthday Baby: You are powerful, protective and patient. You are honest and open, always ready to take action. You are a strong competitor.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

Conceptis Sudoku

be necessary. OOO

By Dave Green

			4	6				
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Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Vesterday's SIIDOKII Answer

			., .					
6	2	1	9	3	8	5	4	7
9	7	4	2	1	5	3	6	8
8	5	3	7	4	6	9	1	2
7	3	6	5	2	1	4	8	9
2	9	5	4	8	7	6	3	1
1	4	8	3	6	9	2	7	5
5	6	9	8	7	3	1	2	4
4	1	7	6	5	2	8	9	3
3	8	2	1	9	4	7	5	6

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WORDERWORD,

By DAVID

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — hurizontally, vertically, thagonally, even backward. First there and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Worden

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Yesterday's Answer: Sunlight
Treasury is lated 9nd neck or may over for \$10.00 sept yes \$50 possige and rending each \$14.00 content.
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2008 **23**

CLASSIFIED ADS

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FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

Dan Dan Village. Panoramic view of Lau Lau Bay, large comfortable home with rooftop patios on 2nd and 3rd floor, unfurnished, walled and gated, 5 bedroom/3 bath, safe, secure, private. Call 322-0268. View by appointment.

FOR RENT - COMMERCIAL

2 Commercial Space for Rent. One 2000 sq.ft. & One 1000 sq.ft. Garapan area across Treasure Island Game Club. Contact Emil De Belen @ 483-3645/233-5100

FOR SALE

1-bedroom/build-in 20ft container wall to wall carpet w/ 12BTU split-type aircon. \$3,500 or best offer/call Rose-233-1984.8am-6om

Retail store equipments & inventories. More than enough to open new business. All for \$5,500/or best offer-233-1984

WHATZIT Solution:

MISCELLANEOUS

USSP CLUB (Mon/Tue/Wed Nights) Happy hour prices all night-5pm-2am. Live music-Tue/ Wed nights-\$2.50/beer, Mon night-\$2.25/beer

EMPLOYMENT

Tony Roma's/Capricciosa ACCOUNTANT BS Acctg, CPA/foreign equiv pref. Min 2 yrs exp. MS Excel/Word/Outlook. Great comm skills. Police clearance required. NO PHONE CALLS PLS.

Email resume to mig@wdiusa.com. Fax 322-7517

HOUSE FOR RENT

3 Bedroom 2 1/2 Bathroom, Furnished: including washer & dryer. Free yard cleaning and trash collection. Safe, quiet and clean neighborhood, close to Dandan Elementary School. \$600 per month. For more information: call 235-8389

FOR SALE
Expensive material
Call 789-1625

Computer Repair Only WE ALSO FIXED LOPTAP & USED PARTS

233-5641 Open 7 Day a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

WANTED AVON REPRESENTATIVE

and earn 30% to 50% commission. Pls. contact Joy Jeter or Jojo Faller at 483-1971, 323-4455 or 483-1097, 287-9300

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

HASTE SPEED HASTE SPEED HASTE SPEED

Saipan Tribune

Find today's solution in this section

Saipan Tribune

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

· 3-Liner with picture

• 5-Liner with picture

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35

\$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

 Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

The Saipan Tribune now offers

Classified Ads Super Saver Package

for Print and Online Editions

A complete 7-day run for car sales, employment, garage sales, apartment rentals, announcements, lost and found, business services, and more...

3-LINER AD \$25

3-LINER AD W/ PHOTO \$45

\$35

5-LINER AD W/PHOTO \$55

Get results. Advertise now!

Call now at 235-2769 for more details.





Paul leads Hornets to another easy win over Spurs



New Orleans Hornets guard Chris Paul (3) celebrates with teammates Hilton Armstrong, left, Morris Peterson, and Tyson Chandler, right, after game 2 of an NBA semifinal basketball playoff series against the San Antonio Spurs in New Orleans, Monday, May 5, 2008.



NEW ORLEANS (AP)— Shutting down David West only gave the San Antonio Spurs front-row seats for the Chris Paul show. With razzledazzle dribbles and a driving floater that couldn't miss, Paul

had 30 points and 12 assists, leading the New Orleans Hornets to a 102-84 victory Monday night and a 2-0 lead over the Spurs in their second-round series.

Peja Stojakovic hit five 3-pointers and scored 25 points for the Hornets, who've won both games by wide margins in becoming the first team to put San Antonio in an 0-2 playoff hole since 2001, when the Spurs were swept by the Los Angeles Lakers in the Western Conference finals.

Game 3 is Thursday in San Antonio.

After allowing West to score a playoff career-high 30 points in the series opener, the Spurs held the All-Star power forward to 10 points on 2-of-11 shooting. But West remained active under the basket with 10 rebounds.

Tyson Chandler had 11 rebounds and

midway through the fourth quarter when the Hornets prevented San Antonio from getting within single digits.

Tim Duncan led San Antonio with 18 points and eight rebounds, far better than his miserable Game 1, when he tied a career playoff low with five points and three rebounds. But by the final minutes, Duncan was on the bench, resting his cheek on his hand with a dejected 100-yard stare.

Manu Ginobili had 13 points for the Spurs and Tony Parker 11. Brent Barry added 14, some of it when the game was out of reach in the fourth quarter.

The Spurs continued to settle for 3-pointers, going 8-of-27 from that distance and finishing at 42.5 percent shooting overall. The Hornets shot 48 percent.

The Hornets opened the second half with a 10-0 run that included 3s by Stojakovic and Morris Peterson. Stojakovic's driving floater capped it, giving New Orleans a 52-43 lead.

With Paul spearheading an up-tempo attack, the Hornets kept the pressure on all of his five points during a key stretch throughout the third quarter. Paul used

heady ball-handling to goad the Spurs into fouls, putting them over the limit with 4:06 left in the period. Meanwhile, Paul and Stojakovic each added another 3, the second putting New Orleans

As the quarter ended, Paul used a high dribble on the drive to give the Hornets a 78-61 lead heading into the final period.

Duncan had seven points in the first eight minutes, luring Chandler into two early fouls and tying the score at 17 on a follow shot as he was fouled by Chandler's replacement, Melvin Ely.

Kurt Thomas, who scored only two points in Game 1, also had seven in the first quarter.

Ginobili scored six points during an 8-0 run that put the Spurs up 29-22 early in the second quarter. New Orleans hit back with a 9-2 run that included Jannero Pargo's two jumpers and rookie Julian Wright's 3, which tied the game at 31.

Paul, who had 11 points in the first half, gave New Orleans a 42-40 lead with eight seconds left in the second quarter. Parker then hit a 3 from the corner at the buzzer to put San Antonio up 43-42 at halftime.

Pistons 100, Magic 93

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Chauncey Billups scored 28 points, three coming on a disputed shot at the end of the third quarter, and Detroit got past Orlando for a 2-0 lead in the second-round series.

Billups officially made a 3-pointer with 0.5 seconds left in the third, ending a play that started with 5.1 seconds and seemed to take a fraction of a second longer using replays the officials didn't use during a 5-minute delay.

Rasheed Wallace and Tayshaun Prince scored 17 points apiece, and Prince added 10 rebounds and five assists. Game 3 in the best-of-seven series is Wednesday night in Orlando.

Dwight Howard bounced back from a lackluster game with 22 points, 18 rebounds and two blocks. Jameer Nelson scored 22 points, making five 3-pointers, before fouling out with 1:23 left in the game. Rashard Lewis overcame a slow start to score 20 points.

NBA BRIEFS

Lakers star Kobe Bryant expected to be named **NBA MVP Tuesday**

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The NBA has scheduled a news conference for Tuesday at a Los Angeles hotel, where Kobe Bryant is expected to be announced as winner of his first Most Valuable Player award. Neither NBA spokesman Mark Broussard nor the Lakers would discuss the subject of the news conference, although the league did refer to it as an NBA Awards Announcement. The Los Angeles Times reported last Friday that the 29-year-old Bryant had won the award. League spokesman Brian McIntyre refused to confirm or deny the report on Saturday. "I didn't know if it was going to come in my career, but to have the moment come now is special, especially to share it with the group of guys we have here," Bryant told reporters Saturday. "We talked about (how) winning this MVP is extremely special because that means I'm doing good. I'm making my teammates better, putting them in a position to win." Bryant, who entered the season as the league's twotime defending scoring champion, had finished as high as third in the MVP voting twice—after the 2002-03 campaign, when he averaged 30 points for the first time, and again last year, when Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki won the award and two-time MVP Steve Nash finished second. Bryant averaged 28.3 points, 6.3 rebounds, 5.4 assists and 1.84 steals while playing in all 82 games despite tearing a ligament in his right pinkie finger in February. A hand specialist recommended surgery, but Bryant decided to put it off until after the Olympics this summer.

Mavs, Rick Carlisle still negotiating about coaching job

DALLAS (AP)—Although Rick Carlisle has emerged as the leading candidate to coach the Dallas Mavericks, nothing is done yet. "Things are going in a positive direction, but it's not going to be a quick deal," Donnie Nelson, the team's president of basketball operations, said Sunday. "We've just got to be patient. We're both continuing to get information and looking forward to further dialogue." Nelson said there has not been a snag, just ongoing negotiations. One wrinkle that's slowing the process is Carlisle's agent being in Europe. "Things are moving in a positive direction," Nelson said. The Mavericks have been looking for a coach since firing Avery Johnson on Wednesday. Johnson was the Coach of the Year in 2006, his first full year in charge, when he led Dallas to the finals for the first time. The Mavs won 67 games the following season, but lost in the first round of the playoffs. They did so again this season, despite having added Jason Kidd in a blockbuster deal in February. Carlisle, 49, has a career record of 281-211 after two seasons in Detroit, then four in Indiana. He was Coach of the Year his first season and made the playoffs every year until his final one. He spent the last year working for ESPN.

Suns allowing D'Antoni to talk to other teams

granted permission for coach Mike further evolves.' D'Antoni to talk to other teams, with the Chicago Bulls and the New York Knicks apparently the leading suitors.

General manager Steve Kerr confirmed Monday that D'Antoni can speak with other NBA teams about coaching vacancies but indicated he still wants to persuade the coach to stay with the Suns.

"As we continue to convey, we value Mike D'Antoni as the head coach of the Phoenix Suns and would like him to continue leading this basketball team," Kerr said in a statement issued by the team. "Because he has requested to speak to other teams about their head coaching vacancies, we have granted him permission."

Kerr said he would have no fur-

D'Antoni, reached by telephone, de-

clined to comment.

"I really can't say anything," he said.

SI.com's Jack McCallum, who spent an entire season with the Suns while writing a book on them, reported Monday that the Bulls general manager John Paxson and Knicks president Donnie Walsh were flying to Phoenix to interview D'Antoni. Knicks' spokesman Jonathan Supranowitz said the team is not commenting on its coaching search. Paxson had no comment.

Radio station KTAR in Phoenix first reported that D'Antoni was being allowed to speak to other teams.

The coach met Friday with Kerr and team owner Robert Sarver for two hours and there reportedly were more con-

PHOENIX (AP)—The Phoenix Suns ther comment "until this process versations over the weekend. Kerr has the playoffs to San Antonio, including acknowledged some differences with dropping a first-round series in five D'Antoni but has repeatedly said he wants the coach to stay if the two sides can resolve the issues between them.

"It's been well documented we have some different ideas and different approaches," Kerr said the day after the season ended. "And what we have to do is talk and communicate and make sure we can get on the same page in terms of how this organization can get better, how this team can get better."

D'Antoni, who has two years worth \$8.5 million remaining on his contract, has led the Suns to three Pacific Division titles and two trips to the Western Conference finals in his four full seasons as coach. He has compiled a 232-96 record, including 55-27 last season. But Phoenix has lost three times in games to the Spurs this year.

The team had to adjust D'Antoni's full-tilt style to fit the arrival of Shaquille O'Neal, a process that was evolving at season's end. D'Antoni fully supported the trade that sent Shawn Marion to Miami for O'Neal because it was supposed to add interior toughness needed to get past the Spurs.

Instead, Phoenix blew one game, was soundly beaten at home and lost two more close ones against San Antonio. That left D'Antoni's situation in limbo and open to criticism about his short rotation, defensive philosophy and coaching staff.

Kerr, a close friend of Sarver and 15year NBA veteran, was hired as general manager and vice president of basketball operations a year ago.

Home run binge leads Red Sox over Tigers



M i k e

Lowell hit one of Boston's three homers for his first RBIs this season, and the Red Sox beat the Detroit Tigers 6-3 Monday behind a wild Daisuke Matsuzaka.

Kevin Youkilis and David Ortiz also connected for Boston, which won its fourth straight game and sent the Tigers to their fourth consecutive defeat.

Matsuzaka (5-0) won despite walking a career-worst eight batters in five innings, which also tied the major league high for walks this season. But he didn't allow a hit until Curtis Granderson's two-out RBI single in the fourth.

Craig Hanson gave up two runs in 1 2-3 innings. Hideki Okajima worked 1 1-3 scoreless innings before Jonathan Papelbon pitched the ninth for his 10th save in 10 chances.

Angels 4, Royals 0

At Kansas City, Missouri, Ervin Santana extended his outstanding start by pitching a fourhitter, and Garret Anderson and Brandon Wood hit consecutive homers in a four-run ninth inning to lead Los Angeles past Kansas City.

Santana joined teammate Joe Saunders at 6-0, becoming the third and fourth Angels pitchers to open a season 6-0 or better. Saunders and Santana are just the eighth pair of teammates to start a season 6-0 since 1920.

Santana gave up just four hits, striking out nine without a walk. It was his second career complete game, his first since hurling a five-hit shutout against the White Sox on May 23, 2005, for his first major league win.

Blue Jays 1, White Sox 0

At Toronto, Dustin McGowan outpitched Javier Vazquez in an entertaining duel, and Matt Stairs homered to help Toronto beat slumping Chicago for a fourgame sweep.

Blue Jays closer B.J. Ryan walked the bases loaded in the ninth inning but got Pablo Ozuna to ground into a 1-2-3 double play to end the game, earning his fifth save It was Toronto's first fourgame sweep since May 2003 against the New York Yankees.

McGowan (2-2) gave up four hits in 7 1-3 innings to win for the first time in three starts. He walked none and struck out six.

Stairs hit a leadoff homer in the seventh off Vazquez (3-3), who struck out nine while throwing 120 pitches in 7 2-3 innings.

Mariners 7, Rangers 3

At Seattle, Wladimir Balentien and Richie Sexson homered to back starter Jarrod Washburn, and Seattle beat Texas to end a five-game losing streak.

Washburn had a 7-0 lead and had allowed just one hit entering

D E - the seventh. He gave up three At Oakland, California, Emil Johnny Cueto rebounded from **TROIT** consecutive hits, then left with tightness in his right calf. Washburn (2-4) beat the Rangers for the first time in three years, a run of 10 starts. It was his first home win in 11 months.

Kevin Millwood (2-3) al-

Brown singled home the winning run in the 10th inning to give Oakland a victory over Baltimore.

With two outs, Daric Barton singled against Jim Johnson (0-1), and Frank Thomas followed with a walk to set up two subpar starts Monday, leading the Cincinnati Reds to a slump-busting victory over the Chicago Cubs.

The Reds ended a five-game losing streak by taking advantage of a pair of errors that set with one out in the ninth off Francisco Cordero, but Mike Fontenot was out at the plate when he tried to score from third on a pitched that bounced away from catcher Paul Bako. Cordero walked Ryan Theriot to load the bases again,

Pujols before lofting a throw to Todd Helton at first.

Pujols turned on the speed after rounding third and slid just out of the reach of catcher Yorvit Torrealba, who lunged forward in an effort to tag him.

Randy Flores (1-0) earned the win after working out of a jam in the eighth, and Jason Isringhausen pitched ninth for his 11th save in 14 chances. He enticed Garrett Atkins into a 5-4-3 double play after Helton drew a one-out walk.

Phillies 11, **Diamondbacks 4**

At Phoenix, Jamie Moyer pitched seven strong innings and had an RBI double as Philadelphia routed Arizona in a matchup of division leaders.

Eric Bruntlett had a three-run triple and Geoff Jenkins and Carlos Ruiz both had three hits as the Phillies managed a season-high 17 hits.

In his longest outing this season, Moyer (2-2) allowed two runs and six hits, struck out five and walked none. Moyer, a career .141 hitter, singled and doubled for the fifth multi-hit game in his career.

The 45-year-old Moyer made his 558th start. Arizona's 23-yearold Max Scherzer made his first.

Dodgers 5, Mets 1

At Los Angeles, Rafael Furcal hit a leadoff homer and Blake DeWitt connected for his first home run in the major leagues as surging Los Angeles downed New York.

Matt Kemp also homered, helping the Dodgers win for the ninth time in 10 games.

Chad Billingsley (2-4) allowed a run and five hits in sixplus innings, walking four. The right-hander worked with men on base in every inning except the first, and stranded four runners in scoring position.

Oliver Perez (2-3) lost his third



Boston Red Sox's Kevin Youkilis is congratulated after hitting a two-run home run against the Detroit Tigers in the fourth inning of a MLB baseball game in Detroit, Monday, May 5, 2008.

lowed nine hits and seven runs in three innings, his shortest start of the season, and lost his 10th consecutive road decision. That tied the franchise record by Joe McClain of the Washington Senators from 1961-62.

Sexson hit a solo home run, his seventh, and Balentien hit a threerun shot off Millwood in the third to put the Mariners up 7-0.

Athletics 2, Orioles 1,

Reds 5, Cubs 3 At Cincinnati, Adam Dunn hit a two-run homer deep into the 10 innings seats in right field, and rookie

rett Olson.

up five unearned runs off Ryan Dempster (4-1), who lost for the first time since switching from closer to starter.

The 22-year-old Cueto (2-3) struck out five in the first two innings around a solo homer by Geovany Soto. The righthander gave up three runs and six hits in six innings, striking out eight. In his previous two games, Cueto gave up seven runs in only 8 2-3 innings.

grounder, leaving him perfect in five save chances.

then retired Derrek Lee on a

Cardinals 6, Rockies 5

At Denver, Albert Pujols scored from second base on a groundout in the ninth inning to lift St. Louis over Colorado.

After a one-out double to right, Pujols took off on contact as Rick Ankiel grounded out to second baseman Jonathan straight start, allowing five runs The Cubs loaded the bases Herrera, who never glanced at and six hits over six innings.

Clemens apologizes for 'mistakes in personal life'

Clemens apologized Monday for unspecified mistakes in his use to attack the pitcher's credibility at trial.

The Daily News reported last week Clemens had a decadelong relationship with country star Mindy McCready that began when she was 15 and an aspiring singer. The newspaper also linked the seven-time Cy Young Award winner to former Manhattan bartender Angela Moyer and Paulette Dean Daly, a former wife of champion golfer John Daly.

Clemens denied having an affair with a 15-year-old but didn't specifically address whether he had a romance with McCready.

"Even though these articles

NEW YORK (AP)—Roger contain many false accusations and mistakes, I need to say that I have made mistakes in my perpersonal life, a statement Brian sonal life for which I am sorry." McNamee's lawyers intend to Clemens said in a statement issued by spokesman Patrick Dorton. "I have apologized to my family and apologize to my fans. Like everyone, I have flaws. I have sometimes made choices which have not been right."

Brown's third hit of the game.

Joey Devine (3-0) pitched

a scoreless 10th for the win,

handing the Orioles their third

consecutive defeat in a game

mostly dominated by the start-

ing pitchers—Oakland's Dana

Eveland and Baltimore's Gar-

The apology was first reported by the Houston Chronicle.

McNamee, Clemens' former trainer, accused the pitcher in December's Mitchell Report of using performance-enhancing drugs in 1998, 2000 and 2001, before players and owners agreed to ban them from baseball.

Clemens, a 354-game winner, has repeatedly denied using steroids and human growth hormone. The defamation suit is being contested in federal court in Houston.

"I think what it says without saying it is that he apparently admits he cheated on his wife and family. And if he cheated on them, I think it's reasonable to assume that he cheated his fans and baseball," Richard Emery, one of McNamee's lawyers, said in a telephone interview.

"I think this is all very probative of his behavior and his penchant for denying the truth, and it certainly will come into play in the defamation lawsuit. He certainly doesn't deserve to be compensated for loss of reputation when his reputation, to the extent he ever had it, of being a family man, was totally false and built on a house a cards, a tissue of lies, if you will."

tinction between McNamee's allegations and the Daily News fered this apology to the public, reports.

has nothing to do with the accusations of steroid and HGH use," Clemens said. "I have already made clear that I did not use them. Now, I have been accused of having an improper relationship with a 15-year old girl. Nothing could be further from the truth. This relationship has been twisted and distorted far beyond reality. It is just one of many, many accusations that are utterly false.

"I realize that many people want me to simply confess and apologize for the conduct that I have been accused of, but I cannot confess to, nor apologize for, things I did not do. I

Clemens tried to draw a dis- have apologized to my family for my mistakes, and having of-I would ask that you let me and "I believe my personal life my family deal with these matters in private.'

Clemens' lawyer, Rusty Hardin, said last week he will talk with his client about whether to proceed with the defamation suit following the wave of unpleasant publicity.

"He's getting pummeled," Hardin said. "I've never seen somebody get beat up like this. In some ways, I think we're on uncharted ground."

The decision on whether to drop the suit rests with Clem-

"That's always a decision the client has to make," Hardin said. "That's not the lawyer's decision."

MANILA, Philippines—The fortunes just keep on coming for Talk 'N Text. The miseries just won't go away for Alaska.

Getting another superb job from Mac Cardona, the Phone Pals finally climb on top of the Smart-PBA Fiesta Cup following a thrilling 98-96 win over the hard-luck Aces at the Araneta Coliseum Sunday night.

Two games after burning the hoops for 35 points, Cardona again led the Talk 'N Text charge with 31, including a 5-of-8 spree from three-point range to carry the Phone Pals to their third straight win and a share of the lead in the importladen conference.

Talk 'N Text wins Sunday thriller

With a 5-2 (win-loss) slate. the Phone Pals are now tied with idles Red Bull and Coca-Cola on top of the standings as Cardona averaged 27.6 points in the team's last three games.

In contrast, Alaska's woes kept on piling.

Despite the return of import Randy Holcomb in active duty, the defending champion Aces suffered their third consecutive setback for a 2-5 mark, a record they shared with the Welcoat Dragons and just a notch up from the bottom of the standings currently occupied by Barangay Ginebra (1-5).

Import Aaron McGhee had 16 points, Anthony Washington 11 and Don Allado 10 for the Phone

Pals, whose crucial 10-4 closing run in the final four minutes proved to be the big

difference in a game of changing fortunes featuring the two teams that disputed the title of this same conference a year ago.

Talk 'N Text led by as many as 9 points in the third period, but was staring at an 88-92 deficit entering the homestretch when it suddenly found its rhythm again.

Washington completed a threepoint play as the Phone Pals closed within at 94-95, before a

> put-back by Allado gave the team the lead for good, 96-95, with 63 seconds left.

Willie Miller, the reigning league Most Valuable Player (MVP), paced the Aces with 22 points, but lost the handle on a tight guarding by Cardona just as Alaska was seeking to regain the lead.

Two more free throws by Washington stretched the lead to three, before the Phone Pals opted to pressure the Aces by immediately committing a foul and sending L.A. Tenorio to the line with 3.6 seconds to go.

Tenorio made the first free throw, 96-98, and then intentionally missed the second.

Jimmy Alapag collared the long rebound and safely scooted away as the final buzzer sounded.

Following his return from a one-game suspension for the flagrant foul he committed against

Red Bull's Rich Alvarez, Holcomb contributed 17 markers and grabbed 9 rebounds while Hugnatan added 14, but missed two crucial free throws inside the final two-minute mark that could have extended a slim 1-point Alaska lead.

Talk N' Text 98 - Cardona 31, McGhee 16, Washington 11, Allado 10, Alapag 9, Carey 8, De Ocampo 5, Peek 4, Ritualo 4, Ferreria 0, Chia 0.

Alaska - Miller 22, Holcomb 17, Hugnatan 14, Cariaso 12, Tenorio 8, Thoss 8, Fonacier 6, Dela Cruz 6, Ferriols 3, Laure 0.

Quarterscores: 21-19, 46-45, 73-67, 98-96. (www.pba.com.ph)

FLORES

From Page 28

run in the Braves' seven-run second inning. He scored twice and had four RBIs.

Little Lions 18, **Hustlers II 15**

Justin Santos and Keen Deleon Guerrero combined for 8-for-9 with six runs and two RBIs as the Kagman Little Lions edged

Hustlers II, 18-15.

Deleon Guerrero also tripled. Michael Muna got the win pitching 1 1/3 innings allowing four earned runs on four this with one strikeout and three walks.

The loss spoiled Jonathan Villagomez' three-run insidethe-park home run in Hustlers II's eight-run sixth inning rally. David Lizama went 4-for-4 with two runs, four RBIs, and three doubles.

Hustlers I 11, Survivors 1

A.J. Lizama struck out a seasonhigh 10 batters as the UMDA Hustlers I breezed past the Martha's Store Survivors, 11-1.

Lizama pitched five innings giving up one earned run on two hits fanning 10 and walking two more in an 82-pitch effort. He also went 2-for-3 scoring twice with a double.

Jesus Celes and Khobby Kaipat combined for 3-for-4 with three runs, two doubles, and five RBIs.

In the final game, defending champion SaipanCell Patriots won by default against DPS Dare JPO Enforcers. It was the third straight no-show game by the Enforcers.

JUNIOR LEAGUE Lion Hearts 4, Fielders 1

Leroy Regis had a no-relief job on the mound as the Kagman Lion

their overall appearance and attitude in the field and how they

Borja also reminded managers and coaches that their team should have settled all their dues so their players won't suffer once the selection process is done. "If they are not yet paid, their players, even of they are on top of each category, will be omitted on the

Hearts defeated the Fielders, 4-1. Regis gave up an unearned

run on six hits with seven strikeouts, and three walks.

Leo Blas had a two-RBI double in the fourth to allow Richard Dela Cruz and Greg Iskawa to score the go ahead runs.

Ol'Aces 7, Jets 3

On Saturday, the UMDA Ol'Aces handed the Jets of Juan S. Tenorio its third loss in 11 games, 7-3.

Lamarc Iguel went the distance surrendering two earned runs on six hits striking out seven batters while walking one.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

16

BIG LEAGUE Hustlers 6, Aztecs 5

Tyrone Cabrera and Joel Satur combined for 4-for-8 in batting with four runs as the Hustlers nipped the UMDA Aztecs, 6-5.

Cabrera also had a triple and an RBI while Josh Arriola went 3-for-4 with one run scored.

John Mafnas pitched a complete game allowing four earned runs on nine hits striking out four and walking none in 97 pitches thrown.

The Sablan Topline Falcons on Tanapag won by default against the PTI Dolphins on Sunday.

CHANGES

From Page 28

sion that could have helped the CNMI's cause but were denied to show-case their skills since they were left out in the selection process or are not popular enough to make the cut.

"Players must be good offensively and defensively you need that balance in baseball so you could attack your opponent cohesively."

"I know a lot of managers and coaches will get mad at me but I feel the board needs to find a solution to fix this problem. The

lavera. He set the score to beat

after a four-game series of 242,

Third and fourth places went

to Raul Dumapit and Lito Te-

odoro who recorded pinfalls of

844 and 830, respectively. Du-

mapit had games of 203, 190,

226, and 225 to finish with a 211

average, while Teodoro put to-

gether games of 186, 222, 197,

ROBERT

214, 192, and 202.

From Page 28

board does not want to do this [be involved] but I we must so we can learn from it and be a lesson for future selection process," said Tenorio.

He added that they would increase the number of players in the batting and pitching leaders in each league to widen and balance the selection process. "So we could have the strongest fighting unit if we reach the World Series."

Tenorio said the manager and coach should also justify why the player they are nominating to the all-star team is worth it. "They should convince me and the board why the payer should

Talavera, Omechalang, Du-

mapit, and Teodoro earned \$100,

\$60, \$40, and \$30, respectively

Omechalang also brought

home one case of Anchor Milk

for topping Day 1 of the com-

While her husband fell short

Monday, Gloria did a Talavera

when she upended Day 1 leader

Ron Cal Monday to win the

Gloria tattooed 747 pins to

with a monstrous 222 in her

for their efforts.

petition.

and 225 to come away with a capped rolls of 158, 199, 168,

be in the All-Star team."

Board vice president Mike Borja supported Tenorio's call and suggested that they should make a list of each player in each category to further widen the selection process. "What we would do is to have a list of the best catchers, pitchers, out and in fielders, and best hitters so we could have greater chances of winning."

Tenorio said the board will also have the last say in the selection for manager for the allstar team in the four leagues. "The manager should follow and is knowledgeable of all Little League rules both local and international. We will also rate

fourth and final game. She

Cal, for her part, took the lead

Sunday with her 747 pinfall total

and 185.5 average built around

a four-game series of 157, 168,

Diane Chong wound up third

with her 693 total and 173.25 av-

erage. She had a four-game series

All three were awarded cash

prizes of \$70 for Omechalang,

\$40 for Cal, and \$25 for Chong.

of sorts when she received a case

of Anchor Milk from Microne-

of 149, 183, 166, and 195.

199, and 218.

beat out Cal by five pins. She Like Percy, Cal got a consolation

wound up averaging 186.75.

control their players."

list for the all-star selection."

The board is also scheduled to meet with the umpires in preparation for the CNMI District Tournament on Rota and the Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament on Saipan. They will soon come out with an official list of umpires.

sian Brokers, Inc. and its affable general manager Kitz Barja.

A total of 56 entries took part in the May King and Queen of the Lanes.

Last Sunday also at the Saipan Bowling Center, Raphael Zapanta won his third Bing Energy Drink Prince/Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament of the year after toppling 658 pins in four games

Like the Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes, the Bing Prince/Princess of the Lanes is sponsored by MARPAC.

AMERICAN LEAGUE **East Division** W

21 13

16 15

17

16 16

16

16 14

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14 17

14 17

14 19

20

14 19

13 20

19

17 14

16 14

15 15

St. Louis 21 12 .636

West Division

Los Angeles 21

Central Division

Boston

Tampa Bay

New York

Baltimore

Minnesota

Chicago

Detroit

Oakland

Atlanta

Chicago

Colorado

San Diego

Washington 14

Central Division

Cleveland

Kansas City

Toronto

LOCAL SCORES

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

9

9

8

9

11

3

6

3

2 3

3

3

7

13

0

0

1

0

Oakland 2, Baltimore 1, 10 innings

Little League Standings Majors 11 **Patriots** Red Sox 10 3 10 3 Ol'Aces 9 Hustlers I 1 Survivors 9 3 9 Braves 8 5 Dragons 4 **Dolphins** 7 Twins Pirates 7 7 Lions

Athletics McDonald's Hustlers II Dare JPO's 6 1/2 Suns 7 1/2

GB

3 1/2

3 1/2

4 1/2

2

2 1/2

2 1/2

3 1/2

.618

.516

.515

.500

.485

.533

.467

.452

.452

.424

.618

.588

.424

.394

.548

.533

.500

.438

563

.375

1 1/2

2 1/2

8

7

9

13

Junior League Lion Hearts

Ol'Aces

D9ers

Jets

Fielders **Senior League**

Dolphins Jets Fielders

Liong Hearts **Big League**

Hustlers Falcons

Aztecs **Dolphins NYBA Standings**

Under-16 G-Rollers I Sixers G-Starz

G-Starz

Sonics

0 1 Kontenders 0 2 Sonics 0 0 Under-14 0 G-Rollers 1

0

0

Yesterday's Games Cincinnati 5, Chicago Cubs 3 St. Louis 6. Colorado 5

Philadelphia 11, Arizona 4 L.A. Dodgers 5, N.Y. Mets 1 Boston 6. Detroit 3 Toronto 1, Chicago White Sox 0 L.A. Angels 4, Kansas City 0

Seattle 7, Texas 3

15 .516 Milwaukee 16 16 16 .500 4 1/2 Houston Cincinnati 13 20 .394 8 12 .387 Pittsburgh 19 **West Division**

Arizona 21 11 .656 Los Angeles 18 14 .563 San Francisco 14 18 .438

12 20

12

Scoring by halves: 23-21,

Texas **NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division** Philadelphia Florida New York

for a 164.5 average.

G-ROLLERS

From Page 28

207.5 average.

rebounds, two assists, and five steals, while Mailau Pome'e had 11 markers, seven rebounds, and two steals.

In the second game, the Sixers escaped with a 60-57 win over G-Rollers in the 14-andunder division.

Duenas piled up the points for the Sixers, finishing with a game-high 20 points, while Nikko Salem chipped in 16 markers as well as having nine

steals and six rebounds.

Queen of the Lanes.

G-Rollers out-hustled the Sixers in every department, 58-38 in rebounds; 21-6 in assists; 30-27 in steals; and 8-3 in blocks, but could not drain the needed points that could have earned them the win.

Lawrence Deleon Guerrero scored 14 points, grabbed 16 rebounds, and had six steals for G-Rollers, while John Norita added 13 markers, hauled down a season-high 20 boards. Issued seven assists, had four steals, and blocked four shots. Ichitaro Faisao ended up with

10 points, seven assists, and 10 steals.

The Southern Sonics open up today's game when they face G-Starz in the 14-and-under division at 5pm, while G-Rollers II clashes with G-Starz in the 7pm Under-16 game.

First Game

G-Rollers I 80 - Hambros 15, Danas 13, Tudela 13, Torres 8, Reyes 7, Aulerio 5, Concepcion 4, Deleon Guerrero 4, Namelo 4, Pangelinan 4, Williams 3.

Kontenders 61 – Ogumoro

21, Pome'e 11, Dawe 7, Laniyo 6, Taisacan 6, Lisua 4, Dillay 2. Scoring by halves: 39-22,

Second Game

San Antonio Sixers 60 -Duenas 20, Salem 16, Blewett 6, Macacho 6, Feria 4, Escalada 2, Francisco 2, Garrido 2, Villanueva 2.

G-Rollers 57 - L. Deleon Guerrero 14, Norita 13, Faisao 10, Bornilla 8, D. Deleon Guerrero 5, Hossain 4, Orejola 3.

60-57.

Escape from Managaha returns May 24



A total of 40 swimmers participated in last year's Escape From Managaha. Photo shows the swimmers posing for a group shot at the American Memorial Park beach.

By JON PEREZ



Long distance and adventure swimmers

are once again invited to join the 6th Annual Escape From Managaha Island Ocean Swim set for May 24.

The annual 2.7-kilometer ocean swim is a unique event that gives participants the chance to thread the beautiful waters of the Saipan Lagoon from Managaha Island to the beaches of American Memorial Park.

The estimated time that the fastest swimmer to finish the ocean swim is between 45 to 65 minutes, depending on the water conditions. Organizers will also allow the use of fins and wetsuits.

Participants will be ferried from Saipan to Managaha Island where they would start the 2.7-km ocean swim going to Micro Beach at AMP.

The cost is \$25 for Saipan Swim Club members, \$30 for Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation and Nadadore Master swimmers, and \$35 for non-members of the three groups.

The entrance fee includes a boat ride, an event T-shirt, and food for the post-race barbecue.

Last year, SSC member Cooper Graf conquered the strong

port Rescue Fire Fighters, Tinian,

Aguaguat, Ports Police, Legisla-

ture, Fire, Department of Public

Works/Procurement and Supply,

The tournament will follow a

single round-robin format with

the Top 8 teams advancing to the

double-elimination round play-

offs. Games will be played every

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

and Saipan Mayor's Office.

X-Terminators remain in Ol'Aces' shadows

currents to top the race with a She beat Rachel Bandelin

By JON PEREZ

lung-busting time of 41 minutes

and seven seconds followed by

Marianas High School teacher

Tyce Mister when he touched the

orange buoy in 45:45. Tinian's

Ken Halliday surprised a few

veterans as he became the third

Another teenager and SSC

member Sarah Johnson man-

aged to upstage masters swim-

mers in the women's division

finishing the Escape in 42:20.

men's overall finisher in 46:23.



The Advance X-Terminators continue to shadow Ol'Aces in the

2008 FMI Inter-Color Basketball League after pulling off a 104-97 come-from-behind win over MIGS in the Open division on Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

GEC Pawnshop also rallied to score a 91-84 win over Price Costco in the open division, while the Taga Warriors dealt Bank of Saipan its first loss, 101-92, in the masters.

The win put the X-Terminators to a tie with Ol'Aces on top of the standings in the nine-team field as both teams have notched their fifth straight wins, while MIGS lost its sixth consecutive match.

The X-Terminators, which will face Ol'Aces today in the 8pm second game, rallied back from an 11-point halftime deficit to foil MIGS' bid to end its five-game slide.

The first game will have the Fixers trying to win their first game this season when they go up against the CTSI Pacers at 6:30pm.

Ronald Delos Reyes and Raymond Cadagat combined for 41 of MIGS' 55 first half points as they took control halfway in the match.

But Andres "Jhun" Estolas Jr., Jonathan Lim, and Lerio Pagarao waxed hot in the final two quarters to help the X-Terminators rally back into the game and escape with the win.

Estolas paced the X-Terminators with 34 points, while Lim and Pagarao added 20 and 15, respectively. Melvin Villarin had a quiet 10 points.

Delos Reyes and Cadagat combined for more than half of their team's points with 35 and 32 each, while Reyad Tagle scattered 12 points.

In the second game, the GEC Pawnshop Panwbrokers shot 77 percent from the free throw line to score a 91-84 win over the Price Costco Storemasters.

The Pawnbrokers went 20for-26 with Manuel Ajoste going 9-for-10 at the charity line. He finished with 22 points behind the 32 made by Mark Wallace, while Mike Olaitiman chipped in 16 markers.

(46:17) and Grace Kimbal

A total of 40 swimmers par-

ticipated in last year's Escape

From Managaha, including can-

cer survivor Mary Ann Stewart,

who made the channel crossing

a mere eight months after un-

For more information or to pick

up entry forms, email SSC head

coach Michael Stewart at wfla@

hotmail.com or call 287-9474.

dergoing a mastectomy.

(46:54) in the race to Saipan.

Spencer Johnson scored 17 points to lead the Storemasters, which led at 44-35 at halftime and held on to a 66-63 advantage heading into the final period.

Delos Reyes scored 26 points as the Taga Warriors surprised league-leading Bank of Saipan, 101-92, in the lone masters division game.

Jun Abedes and Ed Cosino added 25 and 20 markers to back up Delos Reyes, while Eric Dizon scored 10 more with most of his points coming in the final quarter.

James Abuy led the Bankers—who went 7-for-20 from the free throw line for a 35 percent clip—with 26 points, while Dario Mamuta chipped in 23 markers with Sonny Ebuen ending up with 12.

First Game

Advance X-Terminators 104 – Estolas 34, Lim 20, Pagarao 15, Villarin 10, Barrios 9, Fitial 7, Capalad 3, Chan 3, J. Mendoza 2.

MIGS 97 – Delos Reyes 35, Cadagat 32, Tagle 12, Macoto 6, Doronila 4, Tabora 4, Banatasa 2, Dela Rama 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-26, 44-55, 71-71, 104-97.

Second Game

GEC Pawnshop 91 – Wallace 32, Ajoste 22, Olaitiman 16, Camacho 9, Palero 8, Casabuena 4

Price Costco 84 – Johnson 17, Viñas 16, Chariton 15, Berline 13, Lauron 13, B. Sablan 8, Alfonso 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-17, 35-44, 66-63, 91-84.

Third Game

Taga Warriors 101 – Delos Reyes 26, Abedes 25, Cosino 20, Dizon 10, Bicera 9, Conti 5, Cruz 2, Echavez 2, Jacob 2.

Bank Of Saipan 92 – Abuy 26, Villegas 23, Ebuen 12, Moreno 9, Ocampo 9, Lopez 8, Darag 3, Delos Santos 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-23, 44-46, 71-70, 101-92.

hursday meeting for PTI govt cagin Department of Corrections, Air-

By JON PEREZ jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER



PTI Inter-government Basketball League coordinator Joey Dela Cruz is re-

minding representatives of the 13 participating teams to show up for tomorrow's meeting at 6pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

Half of the \$500 entrance fee, or \$250, is also due in the *tete-atete* where team representatives will also be informed of other details about the league. The remaining amount must be paid on or before the teams' third game. Checks can be made payable to the Division of Sports and Recreation.

Early this week, PTI became the major sponsor of the 2008 season of the annual government basketball league. Present during the signing were coordinators Joey Dela Cruz and co-coordinator Mario Sablan. PTI market-



JON PEREZ

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs acting secretary Melvin Faisao, center, presents the championship trophy to Office of the Public Auditor head Michael Sablan in last year's award ceremony of the Inter-Government Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ing associate Brad E. Ruszala was on hand for the sponsoring company and discussed the details of PTI's sponsorhip.

PTI regularly supports youth and adult teams in a vast number of sporting events as part of its continuing commitment to the people of the CNMI.

Thirteen teams have already showed interest in joining the 2008 season of the Inter-Gov-

ernment Basketball League, which opens on May 12, Monday, 6pm at the Gilbert C. Ada

The 13-team field is led by defending champion Office of the Public Auditor and last year's runner-up Northern Marianas College-Proa. The other 11 squads are Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Commonwealth Health Center,

Gymnasium.

with the first and second games scheduled at 6:30pm and 8pm. Last year, OPA defeated NMC-Proa, 2-1, in their threegame series.

Proa opened the race-to-two title match with an 82-79 win in Game 1 but OPA bounced back with a 76-63 victory to force a rubber.

OPA then did not let the opportunity slip away from their hands and scored a 99-82 rout of NMC Proa in Game 3 to wrap up the series.

For more information about the government basketball league. call Dela Cruz at 664-2503.

Sign up for 2008 King, Queen of the Diamonds begins

By JON PEREZ jon_perez@saipantribune.com



Sign up is still open for the upcoming King and Queen of the Diamonds Slow-pitch Co-ed

Softball Tournament, which will be held from May 16 to 18 at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan and Capital Hill fields.

Tournament coordinator Joey Dela Cruz said the May tournament will be the first round of the annual competition, which is open to all Saipan residents

18 years old and above.

Dela Cruz is also limiting the number of participating teams to 10. Games will be played at the "Tan Ge" field in the first day of the tournament while the last two days will be held at Capital Hill.

The entrance fee is \$150 and is due together with the team roster on May 15, Thursday, where a meeting with all the managers, coaches, or team representatives will also be held at 6pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

Waiver forms can be picked

up at the Division of Sports and Recreation office at the Ada gym and look for Dela Cruz.

The champion of the threeround tournament will automatically qualify for the October finals in Koror, Palau, where they would get an allexpense paid trip to represent Saipan in the Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds finals in November.

The second round will be held on July 19 and 20 and the third and final round will be on Sept. 20 and 21. The second and third place teams in each round will play in a singleelimination format in the consolation draw with the fourth and final spot in the championship round at stake.

Teams need to play in two out of the three rounds in order to qualify for the wild card playoff. Two female players need to

play on the field at the same time. Interested teams can now get their waiver forms from Dela Cruz at the Ada Gym.

For more information about the King and Queen of the Diamonds, call Dela Cruz at 664-2503 or 287-6509.

to join the 6th Annual Escape From Managaha Island Ocean Swim set for May 24.



Paul leads Hornets to another easy win over Spurs

Shutting down David West only gave the San Antonio Spurs frontrow seats for the Chris Paul show.



With razzle-dazzle dribbles and a driving floater that couldn't miss, Paul had 30 points and 12 assists.

28 WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Flores RBI-single lifts Pirates past Suns

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

avin Flores' RBIsingle in the bottom of the eighth drove in the winning run as the Kautz Glass Pirates rallied back for a 9-8 win over the Shell Marianas Suns in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League on Sunday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

The win denied the Suns from snapping out of an 11game losing slump, while the Pirates improved their chances of at least getting the last playoff spot with

three play dates left in their schedule. The Pirates hold a 5-7 slate just one game behind the Twins' 6-7 record and 2 1/2 back from the eighth place PTI Dolphins' 7-4 card.

Austin Deleon Guerrero connected with a lead-off double then scored when Flores slapped a single to right for the gamewinning run.

Flores, Deleon Guerrero, and Frankie Camacho combined for 6-for-9 in batting with five runs, and three doubles. Flores also had two RBIs including his RBI-single in the eighth.

Kaisei Toda only went 1-for-3 but had a two-RBI double in the Pirates' four-run sixth inning as they rallied back from a 7-3 deficit. Still





Austin Deleon Gurerro of the Kautz Glass Pirates eyes the ball as he prepares to make contact in their game against the Shell Marianas Suns in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League on Sunday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field. Right, Kautz Glass Pirates pitcher Frankie Camacho watches his throw toward the plate.

and later scored on a Frankie Norita sacrifice fly.

Camacho earned the win pitching four no-hit innings in relief giving up one earned run, fanning six batters while walking six more.

Twins 24, A's 13

seventh, Camacho doubled Twins used a 14-run bottom of the fifth inning rally to cruise to

a 24-13 triumph over the Tan **Holdings Athletics**

The Twins peppered the A's bullpen combining for 19-for-33 in bat-

ting, while pitchers Darrion Jones, Ian Lizama, and M.J. trailing 8-7, in the bottom of The Wells Fargo As Matuis Sakisat held them the Athletics to 7-for-22.

Red Sox 7, Ol'Aces 2

The Bank of Saipan Red Sox went 4-for-23 but scored enough runs to pull off a 7-5 triumph over the Happy Market Ol'Aces.

John Kileleman pitched 5 1/3 innings surrendering three earned runs on eight hits with five strikeouts and three walks

Braves 18, Dragons 12

On Saturday, R.J. Riungel lasted for four innings giving up one earned run on six hits fanning eight and walking one to lead the AA Ent./TCC World Tanapag Braves to an 18-2 demolition of the San Antonio Dragons.

Lucio Kalen, 2-for-3, had a grand slam and blasted a basescleaning inside-the-park home See FLORES on Page 26

Robert, Gloria prevail in May roll-off

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSISTANT EDITOR



Robert Talavera and Gloria Omechalang were hailed champions of the May Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament after toppling Day

1 pacesetters last Monday at the Saipan Bowling Center in Garapan. Talavera turned on the heat against first day

leader Percy Omechalang and went on to knock down 868 pinfalls to take the men's championship with plenty to spare.

His 18-pin over Omechalang was built around four games of 200 pins or more. He started off with a 225, followed it up with a 215 and 202, before finishing in style with a 226.

The SBC lanes supervisor's four 200-plus scores allowed him to average a scorching 217

Omechalang, meanwhile, settled for runnerup honors after his 850 and 212.5 average last Sunday were eclipsed by the hard-charging Ta-

See ROBERT on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Robert Talavera, right, and Gloria Omechalang show of their winning after ruling the May Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament last Monday at the Saipan Bowling Center in Garapan.

G-Rollers split games in 16-and-under caging

By JON PEREZ jon perez@saipantribune.com



The Garapan Rollers basketball program split their Monday night assign-

ments in the Northern Youth Basketball Association 16-andunder Basketball League at the Garapan Basketball Court.

While G-Rollers I rolled past Kontenders, 80-61, in the 16-and-under division, their 14-and-under squad suffered a 60-57 loss to the San Antonio Sixers.

Ham Hambros led G-Rollers I to their second straight win ending up with 15 points, four rebounds, two steals, one assist, and one block shot.

G-Rollers I led from the start.

zooming to a 39-22 lead at the half and were never threatened after that to coast to victory.

Jomar Danas and Zack Tudela provided scoring support for Hambors combining for 26 points, five rebounds, five steals, and a block shot.

Wens Namelo only scored four points but grabbed a season-high 13 boards to lead a 71rebound effort by G-Rollers I. Rainier Deleon Guerrero, Tom Pangelinan, and Patrick Torres combined for 16 points and 30

Luizi Reyes was held to seven points but had a game-high seven assists and seven steals as G-Rollers also bested Kontenders in steals, 34-21, and assists, 27-9.

Trevor Ogumoro led the Kontenders with 21 points, 14

See G-ROLLERS on Page 26

Changes to all-star selection process sought

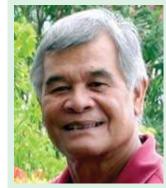
By JON PEREZ jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Saipan Little League board association president Juan I. Tenorio will implement changes in the All-Star selection process in the Majors, Junior, Senior, and Big League divisions.

Tenorio made the proposal upon the approval of the Little League board during their meeting Tuesday afternoon at the Tropicana Restaurant at Hafadai Beach Hotel.

Tenorio said he would like to get the entire board involved in selecting the all-star teams to remove the popularity contest that has plagued the selection process in the past years.

Tenorio said that in the past managers or coaches hold



Tenorio

meetings of their own before going to the board meeting for the all-star selection and they would agree beforehand that they would support each others' players so they would make it into the team. "Before it was because you are my nephew or your parents are my kumpayre or kumayre."

"Now the board wants to change that. We must choose the all-star members based on their achievements and the way they perform offensively and defensively."

Tenorio said in this threeyear experience as an all-star manager he could have chosen the players that could have gave the CNMI the chance to move on into the next round. "What if I have this player on my team? Maybe we could have moved on in Bangor, Maine."

He added that he knows a number of players in last year's Senior League divi-

See CHANGES on Page 26